Summoned Slaughterer
(呼び出された殺戮者)
Volume 07
It's better for the bait's side to be lively

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Story Description:

Touno Hifumi was summoned to another world, to be a Hero for a kingdom. Unbeknownst to the summoners, he's a kill-happy person who restrained his killer instincts with martial arts. Upon arrival he slaughter various knights and the mastermind of the event, the King. Unwilling to oppose this strong killer, the Princess let him go free. Thus start the fun life of travelling the world, unrestraintly killing any who attempt to kill him.

But first, lets purchase a pair of female slaves.

Original Story can be found here:
Link

Chapter 49: Do Your Thing

After sneaking out of the royal castle, the First Knight Unit's Ribezal brought around 50 subordinates with him and went towards Horant. His goal was the city of Münster, where the Second Knight Unit was stationed.

Ribezal was impatiently rushing his horse along the highway, but suddenly, a person could be seen standing on the road.

It was a suntanned small man around the age of 30, who was signaling by swinging both of his arms in a big motion, but Ribezal

had no intention to respond.

“Out of the way!”

Although he shouted with a loud voice, the man didn’t seem to have the intention to make way for them. Ribezal was then surprised by the man’s next words.

“You’re Ribezal of the First Knight Unit, right?”

“What?”

Ribezal damned himself inwardly as he unintentionally halted his horse. Stopping here means he recognized the man’s existence.

He looked closely at the man, but his eye color couldn’t be seen as he was smiling so much that his eyes

turned thin. But it was not a man he had any recollection of.

“Do you have any business with me?”

“Yes, I’m known as Beirevra, and honestly, I’m a spy from Vichy...”

The words of the man called Beirevra immediately put Ribezal and his men on guard. As they put their hands on the swords by the waists, Beirevra flusteredly shook his hands.

“P-Please wait! I was waiting here because I wanted to help you!”

“You said you were waiting here? How did you know I was coming this way!? Furthermore, you say you’re a spy from Vichy, but this is

the border of Horant. This is on the opposite side."

"Well, you see, a guy named Hifumi was looking for me and it seemed as if the country would sell me out. So with the help of an intermediary, I went over to Horant..."

It seems that by the time Vichy's army was defeated, he had betrayed his country and used a fake name to cross Orsongrande in order to reach Horant.

"And then as I was about to leave the capital, I heard that Hifumi had arrived at the royal castle. I thought someone from the castle should hurry over towards the Second Knight Unit over by Horant, so I left the capital early in order to wait

here."

But never did I think I'd meet the captain of the First Knight Unit, he clumsily flattered.

"So, what's your objective?"

"Yes. I thought that perhaps you'd like to become colleagues."

Seemingly embarrassed, Beirevra scratched his head, as all the knights made suspicious faces.

"There are no advantages for me, so there's no need to talk about it."

"Oh? I'd certainly be of some help, right? Because I can arrange some of Horant's magic tools, you see."

"Magic tools? What use would they

be?”

“Well, if you were to check what happened to the Second Knight Unit over at Münster, you’ll know.”

“What...”

Not understanding what he’s implying, Ribezal ordered his men to capture the still smiling Beirevra.

“I don’t know what your goal is, but I’ll decide what to do with you after seeing the circumstances.”

Being pulled into something, Ribezal felt that it was best to keep the small man alive for now.

Beirevra was bound without any particular resistance, and was brought with Ribezal as they

continued towards Münster.

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Hifumi and Origa were riding their horses along the highway towards Fokalore in a good mood.

The reasons for their good moods were different, but the time was spent in a comfortable and carefree manner in the warm weather.

“Hifumi, there’s a response from the echolocation. There are 20 people 10 minutes ahead of us. They seem to be carrying weapons.”

For a moment, Hifumi didn’t know what she was talking about, but then he recalled the wind magic used for searching, that he named himself.

Now that you mention it, that thing existed, Hifumi thought, admiring Origa as she put forth great effort to increase the accuracy.

“Weapons, huh. Are they bandits?”

“Most likely. It’s close to the highway, and there are few monsters, after all.”

They didn’t stop the horses as they spoke.

“That reminds me…”

“What is it?”

“About the promise to pursue Beirevra – it might be somewhat hard. Since we didn’t get an answer from Vichy, by the time we finish dealing with the central committee,

he might've escaped somewhere."

"That..."

Origa covered her face.

Truthfully speaking, killing Beirevra was the reason she was initially together with Hifumi, but before she noticed, she started using Beirevra as an excuse to stay beside him. She had thought more than once or twice, that if they don't find Beirevra, they'd stay together like this forever. But of course, the desire for revenge on Beirevra had still yet to disappear.

"... I believe that as long as I journey the world together with you, we'll be able to catch him at some point."

"I see."

In response to Hifumi's short answer, Origa felt miserable. Wasting the consideration of Hifumi, as well as delaying the conclusion of the matter, in order to ensure a place she could call her own. Origa felt she was dishonest.

Aside from her dispiritedly worrying, Hifumi quickly jumped off his horse and tied it to a suitable tree. It'd be troublesome if the horses escaped, so he thought about leaving the horses here before killing the opposite party.

"There's no need to hesitate. If you think you should kill, just kill. That's reason enough."

Hifumi muttered a few words before he left, swinging the

counterweight of the kusarigama in his hands.

It seems like he misunderstood the reason Origa was feeling down, but more than anything else, that Hifumi showed concern for her made her happy.

“Yes!”

Responding to Hifumi, Origa grasped a shuriken in her right hand, before running to catch up with him.

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“Since when did the Orsongrande soldiers deteriorate this much!?”

Crushing the war report in his hand, Stifels struck his desk.

“Well, Horant may have a fewer amount of soldiers than us, but even if we assault them with arrows and magic, or cut off their arms, they still charge right at us. Truthfully speaking, it’s abnormal.”

No one in the Second Knight Unit had any knowledge of the magic tools used in Arosel or Rhone. Just that as they were following orders to push against the Horant soldiers, they were completely suppressed mentally. In addition to the knights they had around 3000 soldiers, but they had already lost about a tenth of them.

“Moreover, their magicians seem to easily perform inhuman acts, like getting their own allies caught in their flame spells. It frightens our

soldiers, so the morale is plummeting."

As the reporting vice captain made a bitter face, Stifels violently sat down in his chair.

"Anyhow, Ayperos is currently at the headquarters. If we keep this up and fail to rise any military achievements, we can't return to the capital. We need to inflict at least some damage to the enemy, so we can't retreat."

He filled his cup with alcohol, and drained it all at once.

"In the first place, Horant suddenly trespassing the national border is the problem! With no official statement, this is a complete

surprise attack... Behaving like bandits, the magic country Horant sure has fallen."

Stifels complained, but what he wanted now was a concrete plan as to how to deal with the current situation.

"Captain..."

Glaring at the vice captain, Stifels smacked his lips.

"It can't be helped, we need to borrow Earl Biron's territorial forces. We'll increase our numbers and push them back in one go."

But before he could send someone, prince Ayperos arrived.

"Stifels. How is the war

progressing?”

Ayperos, still in his teens, had brought with him several of his chamberlains, doing his best to make a dignified display.

“Yes. Horant’s resistance is stronger than we expected so we’re currently struggling for supremacy. The strategy we have now is to force them back.”

“I see. Tell me when it’s about to be decided.”

When they are about to win, Ayperos needed to come out to take the helm.

Aiperos said he looked forward to it, before taking his leave, as Stifels unpleasantly saw him off.

“Coming out afterwards…”

This was all done in order to give the Second Knight Unit some achievements, but Stifels didn’t know what to do with the prince who were butting in more than necessary.

It seems like witnessing his sister Imeraria actively participating in the national politics, and getting the support of the people, had made him somewhat impatient. Maybe the throne would be snatched away like this, so that’s why he made that previous announcement to Stifels, as well as bringing with him a huge number of chamberlains and his private army.

But he didn’t let that private army

participate in the battle, and only used them as an escort. A lot of people were brought with him, so the city of Münster was about to burst. Far from being a help, they were rather a nuisance.

“At any rate, we’ll increase our soldiers and strike the enemy with overwhelming power! Send a messenger to Earl Biron.”

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Hifumi let out a sigh as he looked at the sickle he had just reaped several human lives with.

“It’s quite damaged. I’ll need to reforge it when I get back to Fokalore.”

“Y-you…”

The bandits, whose numbers had already been halved, were glaring at Hifumi with their crude weapons in their hands but when they saw their dead comrades on the ground, their legs didn't let them step forward.

"I'll need to use another weapon for now."

Instead of the kusarigama, Hifumi fetched his pick and swung it lightly.

"This one is still okay."

Hifumi glanced behind him and saw Origa smiling. Beneath her feet were the bodies of three bandits, who seemed to have wanted to take her hostage.

All at once, attack!"

“Yeah!”

At the words of the man who looked like the leader, the remaining 10 men all attacked.

“Do that from the beginning instead.”

One person got his throat pierced by the pick.

Before his eyes got dark, the next person had already had his neck grabbed and thrown down on the ground, before getting his heart pierced.

Averting an incoming club, Hifumi kicked the person in the crotch with all his strength.

“Scheme a little bit at least. This is

dull.”

Finishing with the pick, he retrieved the spear he took from Ribezal.

“7 left. I wonder how many seconds you can hold out for.”

“Don’t mess with us!”

The head of the bandits, who was brandishing a longsword, got both of his legs cut off, after which Hifumi decapitated him.

The bandits who lost their leader threw their weapons on the ground and began to scatter in all directions.

But if he were to let away his precious prey, he wouldn’t be Hifumi. He thoroughly transformed

them all into corpses.

“Nice weather... I hope it’ll stay like this all the way until Fokalore.”

Origa felt some ordinary everyday happiness looking at Hifumi merrily killing people.

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“I refuse.”

Earl Biron curtly refused the request for reinforcements the Second Knight Unit’s vice captain brought with him with his visit to the Earl’s mansion.

“But why? We’re asking you in order to cooperate to protect this city...”

“I also took the protection of the city into consideration before I refused. My subordinates also confirmed the war situation, and the soldiers from Horant are behaving strangely.”

‘That’s something you should also know about’, Biron said as he stared at the vice captain.

“With an abnormal opponent who don’t feel exhaustion and just keeps relentlessly attacking, I don’t think you can just meet them head on. It’d be better to exhaust them by defending, while waiting for reinforcements.”

“Reinforcements?”

“Yes. I’ve already sent a messenger.

It's quite a distance away, but they should arrive before the defensive wall collapse."

The vice captain couldn't hide his irritation at that carefree manner of speaking.

"Is this really the time to stay calm!?"

"Oh? Didn't prince Ayperos say that you were 'struggling for supremacy'? Furthermore, if we put importance on the walls, don't we have enough defense?"

"Ugh..."

Of course, Biron was sarcastic, as he knew about the crisis with the army over by Horant. But as it was virtually the same thing Stifels had

said, as well as being the truth, there was nothing the vice captain could say.

“So, what size of reinforcement did you request from the capital?”

If he could calculate the reinforcements coming, he could integrate them into the plan they had.

“I believe it was around 4000 men from an outskirts region of the capital.”

“You didn’t request reinforcements from the capital?”

“Huh? Then where from…”

Biron elegantly tipped his cup of tea a little, enjoying the smell of tea,

before smiling.

“If requesting something, a strong person is preferable, right? So I requested the lord of Fokalore, Hifumi. If he’s as strong as the rumors say, he should be able to play a significant role in the fight against Horant.”

“Wh... How can you...”

Seeing the vice captain not being able to close his mouth after hearing that, Biron felt a little better.

Chapter 50: Selfish

The messenger, dispatched by Biron, used a horse although he donned the appearance of an ordinary citizen. Burdened with a bundle of valuable seasonings, he has been ordered to say he is a merchant if something were to happen.

As he met nobles, knights and soldiers, without knowing whether they belong to the prince or princess faction, he wasn't able to request their protection. Even if he saw a soldier or a knight, he ignored them. He was given detailed instructions to appeal directly to Hifumi of Fokalore anyway.

「What's your purpose in coming from the capital?」

「It's on the way since I want to go until Fokalore to sell the spices.」 (Messenger)

Even if the coming and going to the current capital hasn't been restricted yet, inspections, doing check ups similar to the ones at the national border, have been set up. The knights of the Third Knight Unit being in charge of that, looked out for the movements of the other knight units.

「Hee, is this something that has been ordered?」 (Sabnak)

Sabnak poked his nose into this affair from behind the asking

female knight.

The messenger had his breath taken away for an instant due to the meddling questioning, but he recalled the details of the instructions he had received from Biron.

「Yes, it is an order from the Lord of Fokalore, Tohno-sama, I received through a company in the capital...」(Messenger)

「That's a lie.」(Sabnak)

「Eh?」(Messenger)

「Hifumi-san isn't this fussy over his meals. Since the time he arrived at the capital he used nothing but food carts with the exceptions of his inn, the slave shop and the

weapons dealer. He hasn't ordered anything like spices. OK, restrain him.」 (Sabnak)

Upon Sabnak's words, the surrounding soldiers quickly restraint the messenger by tying him up.

「W-Why... ?」 (Messenger)

「Probably there is no one who knows Hifumi-san as well as us, the Third Knight Unit... excluding Origa-san.」 (Sabnak)

"Bad luck," Sabnak laughs. The messenger decided to try betting on the other party, called Third Knight Unit, rather than wasting time and lets himself get restrained. Considering the main goal or Biron,

he judged this to be the best he could do currently even if he were to be punished later on.

「A-Actually...」 (Messenger)

「Un?」 (Sabnak)

The messenger lets Sabnak see the letter directed at Hifumi-san situated in his breast pocket that explained the progress of the battle at Münster.

Sabnak, having confirmed the signature of Biron on the letter, released the restraints of the messenger and told him to immediately go to the royal castle.

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In Fokalore the civil officials

currently were in the middle of their hectic work close to feeling faint whereas the officers and soldiers had free time. The adventurers are plenty in dealing with the monsters without it even being any significant combat. Even in Arosel, where Hifumi had decreased the number of adventurers by killing some, there doesn't seem to be any problem in regards to the numbers as some of the adventurers have moved over from Fokalore.

As a result, while the territorial army's soldiers are practicing in turns, the group of forces, Hifumi had coached, are debating about this and that. The weapons, invented by Hifumi in cooperation with the dwarf Pruflas, are

undertaking tests.

The civil officials are preparing to educate the civil official candidates from the new territories and are making a new family register of the territory's population.The increased number of staff members and soldiers are helping out. Not a single person has time.

Even the impudent Caim, with his usual facial expression, has increased his normal walking speed by two times. Since it became difficult for him to call out to the too many staff members, their reports are concentrated at Brokra, who assumed responsibility instead. But even he is on the verge of bursting.

Miyukare has also summoned the vacating army forces as assistance, getting them engaged in work. Right then, Alyssa, who should be training together with the territorial troops outside the city, came running.

「Miyukare-san!」 (Alyssa)

「Alyssa-sama, although you are as lovely as ever, what has happened?」 (Miyukare)

As Miyukare welcomed her with her best smile, Caim, who happened to pass by, approached as well.

「Put more effort into concealing your desire a bit better. Director of Military Affairs-sama, is there some

emergency?」(Caim)

「Ah, un, the central committee of Vichy? or called something like that, a person has told me they came from there. Have them wait at the waiting room on the first floor, but...」(Alyssa)

Alyssa, not quite informed about the system in Vichy, didn't understand well the thing called central committee either. Being called out at the place, where people line up in front of the gate, she brought him along without comprehending what would be good.

「Even though there was no contact from the national border... Understood. Please leave it to us

since Miyukare and I will deal with it.」 (Caim)

「That's a...」 (Miyukare)

「Un, please take care of it.」 (Alyssa)

Miyukare, being dragged into it, reached out her hand towards the running-away Alyssa in vain.

「Ah, despite me looking forward to observe her from the shadows after reaching a point where I can take a break from work...」 (Miyukare)

「If you have this kind of free time, then please do your work. Since I am arranging for inns close to the mansion, you will explain the Lord's absence. If they want to stay, lead

them to an inn. If they want to go back, ask them about the reason of their visit, please.」 (Caim)

Murmuring 'Unlike you , I need some warmth,' towards the back of Caim, who put an end to his instructions by quickly leaving, Miyukare went towards the location of the first floor. A single soldier came around.

「Miyukare-san, there is a message from the national border. A messenger is heading towards here from Vichy...」 (Soldier)

「I heard that already. He hails from the central committee. We have him waiting on the first floor.」 (Miyukare)

「Huh? It's the personal messenger of a person called Minoson, being one of the central committee. We are currently having him waiting for further instructions at the entrance of the city...」 (Soldier)

Miyukare was at her wit's end due to the words of the soldier.

「Don't bring Vichy's internal troubles over here... For now I have to inform them about the Lord's current absence. If the messenger intends to wait, have him stay at an inn close to the gate.」 (Miyukare)

「Understood」 (Soldier)

'This will be hopeless, if Hifumi doesn't come back soon', Miyukare thought.

「Let's start by greeting them.」(Miyukare)

At any rate, until Hifumi's makes his decision, the messengers will only bump heads, if they aren't kept in check. She decided to discuss this matter at the meeting with the other civil officials.

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Until now Imeraria restrained herself from excessively using the deceased king and the next-to-be king as political arguments. But it had reached the point where she made use of them in the coronation announcement the other day. Although it had been a recommendation from the prime minister, she decided beforehand to

strengthen her own foundation for the sake of protecting her younger brother. She considered this to be a necessary step.

Without sitting on the throne as one would expect, Imeraria stood in front of the kneeling Sabnak and the messenger from Biron. With Sabnak in front, the messenger was in a place of having moved back a bit as he was someone with a different social status.

「Then you are saying that the Second Knight Unit and the territorial army of Earl Biron are in a dangerous predicament?」(Imeraria)

Due to the report of the messenger, who had been allowed to speak

directly to her, Imeraria frowned. With the war on Vichy's side not having yet finished either, it was an information she didn't really want to hear about.

「At the time of my departure the city still hadn't been directly attacked. But, observing the losses of the Second Knight Unit and judging the danger to be imminent, Earl Biron chose me to request for reinforcements as messenger.」 (Messenger)

「Why is it that this request hasn't been sent towards the royal castle but instead towards Earl Hifumi?」 (Imeraria)

The messenger, with a face full of sweat, hesitated to answer

Imeraria's question. If he answered poorly, rather than him being the cause, it would be taken as if Earl Biron was making light of the royal family. A reason, along the lines of 'the territory is close thus they are in the same dilemma', can't be used.

As the messenger wasn't able to say anything, Sabnak threw him a life line.

「Imeraria-sama, isn't this the result of Earl Biron avoiding to be dragged into the chaos at the royal castle?」(Sabnak)

The messenger wondered whether it was fine to say this, but he had no longer any other choice but to remain silent.

「With all due respect, including my Knight Unit, the people, concerned with the royal castle, have been divided into princess faction and prince faction. There was a strife over influence behind the scenes because Imeraria-sama's declaration from before. Given that Earl Biron's standing in this situation was still pending, it would come to him having to rely on either faction for even talking to anyone within the castle.」
(Sabnak)

「So how did this talk resulted in flowing to Hifumi-sama?」
(Imeraria)

「Most likely Earl Biron chose this method in order to support Imeraria-sama. But the news of

Imeraria-sama's announcement a few days ago and the prolapse with the First Knight Unit shouldn't have circulated to the Biron earldom as of yet. Therefore, avoiding to contact the royal castle, entangled in its factions, he selected to directly appeal towards Hifumi-san, who is reputed to be the head of the princess faction and also can be called the strongest internal war potential currently.」 (Sabnak)

「I see... It seems that Sabnak-san is well aware of Earl Biron's circumstances.」 (Imeraria)

「Since his family is the one my elder sister has married into, I am grasping the circumstances of the Biron earldom to a certain extent.」 (Sabnak)

On that subject, Imeraria recalled that she met the wife of Earl Biron very long ago. In those days Sabnak hasn't become a knight yet. She was a woman who gave her a lovely impression as she even seriously talked to the other party, who was a lot younger than herself.

「Sabnak-san. Immediately lead the soldiers... though I considered this, it won't do, if you don't help with the management of Hifumi-sama's territory.」(Imeraria)

「Yes. I have planned to leave the capital any time now.」(Sabnak)

'Since my brother-in-law is in danger, I really want to take her up on this', perspired within Sabnak's mind.

Because she heard from Pajou about Sabnak's popularity, Imeraria brooded over her wish to fix him as the core of the Third Knight Unit by raising some accomplishments if possible.

「... Which reminds me, there was a woman within the Third Knight Unit who owned a peculiar personal history.」 (Imeraria)

Imeraria suddenly remembered the situation of a single knight, but she couldn't recall her name.

「Is this about Phyrinion?」 (Sabnak) (T/N: フィリニオン or Fuirinion」

「Yes, though I haven't met her yet, she contributed to the

administration of a territory with her father's help since her youth. Following the wish of her father, Viscount Amazerto, she even became a knight, but originally her ability as civil official is excellent. Let's entrust this task to her.」(Imeraria)

「Eh?」(Sabnak)

「I said to leave the assistance in managing Hifumi-sama's territory to her. Please gather the soldiers and head right away towards Münster, Sabnak, since I will explain things to Phyrinion.」(Imeraria)

「B-But...」(Sabnak)

Imeraria told the baffled Sabnak

flatly.

「It doesn't matter. I will give Phyrinion-san a letter explaining the reasons... Rather than the matters of the territory, they will be more interested in the information about the battlefield. Messenger of Biron earldom.」 (Imeraria)

「Ha ha」 (Messenger)

「As for your duty entrusted to you by Earl Biron, you will accompany Phyrinion and that chamberlain. I'm sorry that it will take some time.」 (Imeraria)

The messenger was completely charmed by her lovely smiling face and bowed in a panic.

「Far from it! I am very grateful for

receiving your words of consideration towards a single soldier like me!」 (Messenger)

(The smile of Imeraria-sama has an effect as he has no immunity to it.) (Sabnak)

While holding such thoughts, Sabnak had complicated mental state as to whether he should feel relieved of his burden, feel a bit lonely or even be delighted to have been given a chance to play an active role as a knight.

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「... So?」 (Hifumi)

After Hifumi, who came back to Fokalore, hears the explanation of Miyukare and Caim, who

immediately came entering his office, he grumbled as if it was a bother.

「Most likely the central committee of Vichy is beginning to break up. The person calling himself Minoson is an old-timer within the central committee as well. It seems that the city, where he is working as representative, is the one most distant from Orsongrande.」 (Miyukare)

Hifumi pondered while placing his hand on his chin.

'What to do to cause the greatest chaos? Should the war become more violent? Or should the scale of the chaos be increased?

After thinking for a few seconds, Hifumi gives his directions.

「Gather everyone from both sides, the messengers as well as those accompanying them. I will talk to them directly.」 (Hifumi)

「What are you planning to do?」 (Caim)

「Merely some harmonious chatting.」 (Hifumi)

Seeing Hifumi easily answering Caim's question, Miyukare judged it to be a definite lie.

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The conference room has become jam-packed when everyone entered as there is a large number of

people.

Accordingly it has become a small glaring contest between the messengers from Minoson and the messengers from the central committee.

「Good grief, what is Representative Minoson thinking?」

「We can't consider this as anything but slighting the committee.」

People, who have a status to some degree, have come. As the two fat men are quarreling with each other, their armed guards are taking an imposing stance.

Incidentally they haven't been

disarmed even though they have entered the Lord's mansion. The ostensible reason of saying it is because they are dropping in for a short visit as adventurers is used here, but in reality, because of Hifumi's words "If you want to act violently, then that's how it is," a fixed amount of guards has been stationed on each floor for protecting the staff members.

Swiftly opening the door, Hifumi silently entered and sat down on the chair at the head of the table. Origa was standing at his back.

「And, what is your guy's wish?」(Hifumi)

Suddenly inquiring about the real issue at hand, the messengers

faltered for a moment, but the messenger from the committee, wiping his sweat, began to speak.

「I-It's concerning the current war. We want to hold peace negotiations...」 (Messenger C)

「Tell this to Imeraria. I don't care.」 (Hifumi)

「We-Well then, regarding a temporary ceasefire.」 (Messenger C)

「Therefore-」 (Messenger C)

Hifumi glared at the messenger with his mouth crooked in the shape of へ.

「Such bothersome discussion is the job of the royal castle. Do not

bring every single matter to me. I won't accept any peace or discussions. However, if you are looking for a fight, you will get one. That person is?」(Hifumi)

The shoulders of the messenger from Minoson shook as the gaze of Hifumi, whose displeasure is at the peak, turns towards him.

He takes out a letter while trembling with fear. He passes it to Hifumi through Origa.

「I have been entrusted with this letter by our representative who implored me to deliver it. If it's alright with you, I wish to receive your reply, but...」(Messenger M)

Hifumi scanned the letter and

looked at Minoson's messenger laughing smugly.

Without being aware of the contents of the letter himself, it was impossible for the messenger to understand Hifumi's reaction, but he was relieved that Hifumi at least seemed to be in a good mood.

「There is an interesting story written here. Let's agree to the entirety of the story. Since I am going to convey the contents to the royal castle, it will also result in being approved by the country and not only me.」 (Hifumi)

「T-Then...」 (Messenger M)

「Tell Minoson that he won't regret the cooperation, if this story is the

truth.」 (Hifumi)

「U-Understood!」 (Messenger M)

Hifumi told the messenger, who was leaving in order to quickly return and convey Hifumi's reply, that it would be fine to use the rail cars for movement until the national border. As the talks had ended, Hifumi decided to exit the room.

「P-Please wait! What the heck has Minoson...」 (Messenger C)

Even the messengers from the committee, standing up with such a force that the chairs were knocked over, felt uneasy about the details that caused Hifumi's sudden change.

「Ah, the city Minoson represents, e to....」 (Hifumi)

「It's Pursang」 (Messenger C) (T/N: ピュルサン or Pyurusan)

「That place. Since Pursang and the surrounding villages have become an independent nation defecting from Vichy, they apparently want me to recognize them.」 (Hifumi)

「Wh-What a...」 (Messenger C)

"This is a betrayal. We have to notify the central government at once!" "No, first we should head towards Orsongrande's royal castle!" The messengers were disputing. Hifumi bluntly told them in a freezing tone,

「Listen」 (Hifumi)

「W-What is it?」 (Messenger C)

「This is my residence. You are free to return or go forward, but since my business with you has finished, get the hell out of here right away.」 (Hifumi)

「Understood, since we will immediately leave, please, concerning the peace negotiations...」 (Messenger C)

「I told you that I don't care.」 (Hifumi)

He snorts in ill-humor.

「If you are an enemy, I will kill you. That's all.」 (Hifumi)

Watching Hifumi leaving without stopping this time no matter what

they even say, the messengers
dejectedly returned to their inn.

...that no one was killed!!!

Chapter 51: Black Or White

While the female knight Phyrinion was advancing along the highway on horse, she pouted in dissatisfaction.

“Why? Is it absolutely necessary for me to go to such remote district such as Fokalore?” (Phyrinion)

The clothes and food was placed in a small carriage that is following her in the back. Earl Biron’s messenger, who was on guard duty at the time of camping, is sleeping within the carriage. Krinola (T/N: >> kurinora <<), that has come along as Phyrinion’s maid from her

parent's home, acted as coachman.

"Fokalore isn't at the end of the nation any more, ojou-sama." (Krinola)

Phyrinion sighed as Krinola, being a few years younger than the 18-years old Phyrinion, innocently tsukkomi'd.

"I know about that too! But it's strange. Something like deploying a member of a knight unit to help a feudal lord. Moreover, is this really Sabnak's duty?" (Phyrinion)

While her green tender hair sways in the wind, Phyrinion can't stop to complain.

"However, rather than doing such dangerous work such as being a

knight, the way of taking care of the territorial administration of a city is a relief for me as well. It has become a rumor in the city that the war has already ended, too. They say, the Lord-sama of Fokalore, where we are currently heading towards, has played an active role to influence this or something like that." (Krinola)

Is she happy that Phyrinion left the workplace where she would very likely be involved in a battle? Krinola has been continuously in a good mood since hearing about the matter of being transferred.

"... It's a blessing, if you don't know about it, right?" (Phyrinion)

Phyrinion, who is affiliated with the

Third Knight Order, is naturally aware of the person called Hifumi. As she slipped into the masses at the succession announcement of the princess just like Sabnak, she has also seen the face of the person himself.

“Although his face is slightly immature, he is well-equipped. But his contents…” (Phyrinion)

Recalling Hifumi’s face she saw from far away, she remembered the personal history she read in the subsequent report.

“Ojou-sama, what’s wrong?” (Krinola)

“Nothing. How far is it until Fokalore?” (Phyrinion)

“We have already entered the Tohno territory. We will arrive tomorrow.” (Krinola)

“... Oh?” (Phyrinion)

While conversing with each other, Phyrinion’s view is observing the highway ahead. Something is approaching while rising a cloud of dust was in sight.

“Krinola, get the carriage off the highway! Something unknown is approaching us with great speed.” (Phyrinion)

“Y-Yes!” (Krinola)

Krinola, steering with the reins, immediately moves the carriage away from the highway. Biron’s messenger also jumped up to his

feet with the carriage hitting the bumps on the ground.

“Did something happen?”
(Messenger)

During the time when Krinola is explaining the situation, Phyrinion leaves the highway as well.

“What’s going on? Good grief...”
(Phyrinion)

Drawing her sword for caution’s sake, Phyrinion, who dismounts her horse and waits besides the carriage, wiped the sweat, that drenched her palm, with a cloth.

Frankly, I have no confidence in my swordsmanship. Admiring female knights, she practiced enthusiastically for a period of time,

but it was no good after she realized the fun of territorial administration. Because she was placed in the knight unit by her father for interfering with the administration too much, she restarted her training more or less, but in terms of skills she was at the lowest ranks amongst the knight unit.

“I hope it isn’t the kind of monsters and bandits...” (Phyrinion)

But, her hope has been betrayed two-fold.

Soon the true identity of the approaching cloud of dust was visible. It was a large monster of the wild boar type. It is a type of monster that can be seen in near places such as forests, but its size is

close to three meters. Even for adventurers, whose strong point is to subjugate monsters, it will be a harsh game, if they don't hunt it with an appropriate number of people.

And then there are people who are chasing that large monster.

A trio who boarded something like some wagon. Two of them are operating some kind of lever. The last is preparing some bow that is fixated on the wagon. All of them are wearing a simple armor somehow similar to the uniforms of soldiers.

"Uoooo!"

"Fool! It's too fast!"

“Scary! Scary! Scary!”

While unanimously yelling, they fired something like a spear urging the monster forward. With a dull sound it pierced the butt of the monster.

As the monster fell over with a great force raising a roar, the wagon crashed into it at high-speed. The three are scattered and blown off the wagon rolling over the monster.

“Uwa...” (Phyrinion)

Feeling uneasy whether this has ended safely, Phyrinion and Biron’s messenger approach the crash site leaving Krinola at the carriage.

The monster had its neck broken at the moment it fell. It was 100%

dead.

After they confirmed that there aren't any other monsters, as they try to examine the state of the collapsed three, all of them are standing up unsteadily.

"A-Are you alright... or?"
(Phyrinion)

As she asks one of them nervously, the soldier-like man bowed his head while being embarrassed.

"Ah, I'm sorry for frightening you."

"N-No... if you are fine, all's well."
(Phyrinion)

The remaining two also get up. Seeing the shattered wagon, they are at their wit's end and say 「We

will be scolded~」.

“I am Phyrinion belonging to Orsongrande’s Third Knight Unit. I wonder to whom you soldiers are affiliated. You are surprisingly sturdy. You boarded a strange vehicle there.” (Phyrinion)

“Oh, what an honor, you were a knight-sama?! We aren’t this injured. We have acquired a technique called ukemi. And it has become something indispensable for our intense training we receive everyday.” (T/N: If I remember correctly, ukemi is from Judo. It is a technique to allow you to fall safely when thrown)

(Ukemi?) (Phyrinion)

Phyrinion raises her vigilance due to the word she has heard for the first time. By some chance they might be people from a foreign country.

While pondering about this, the other two soldiers came close and bowed to Phyrinion's group.

"We are deeply sorry to have caused you anxiety. As we prepared a camping site further down the highway from here, we chased the monster in order to get some food."

"That is fine, but what's your affiliation?" (Phyrinion)

The three men show a shy, embarrassed grin. They don't have the boorishness like other soldiers I

have seen. They somehow feel gentle.

“Ah, please forgive us our impoliteness! We are territorial soldiers belonging to the territorial army of the Tohno territory.”

(They are...) (Phyrinion)

They were quite different from the image she had about the small army force that defeated a large army. Phyrinion became very anxious due to the objectionable aspects of the soldiers as she thought them to be frivolous people.

“Slightly away on horses from here on was our camp. Given that we are returning in order to report to Lord

Hifumi-sama, how about travelling with us if that's alright with you? We have troubled you because of Lord Hifumi-sama apparently saying that he wants to make bear stew, as an apology..."

"Hifumi-sama is there?"
(Messenger)

Bending himself forward in curiosity, it is Biron's messenger who interrupts the soldier.

It seems that I will meet him faster than I expected, Phyrinion pulled herself together.

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Except for the details Hifumi told the messengers from the central committee, there was something

important written in the letter from Minoson, who is the representative of Pursang, the single metropolis of Vichy.

“It looks like Beirevra has fled from Vichy. So, according to the extent of Minoson’s investigation, it appears as if he is most likely planning to head towards Horant, escaping Orsongrande by once again pretending to be a merchant.” (Hifumi)

Listening to Hifumi’s explanation, Origa paused for a little while and then opened her mouth.

“Are we able to trust this information?” (Origa)

“Who knows.” (Hifumi)

Picking up the letter Hifumi threw away, Origa carefully scanned its contents.

“Soon there will be confusion in Vichy as effect of Pursang’s independence. Even though it will also be fine to attack then, it seems too obvious that Minoson considers it to be possible with ease. I don’t like that at all.” (Hifumi)

“With ease… probably it won’t?” (Origa)

“Originally it would become “Pursang vs. the rest of Vichy.” If it turns out that quite a part of Vichy has to face Orsongrande in war, the enemies will decrease for them accordingly, right?” (Hifumi)

“I see.” (Origa)

“Let’s leave Vichy alone for a while”, is what Hifumi said.

“It looks to me that it will be enjoyable, if we let their state become a little more complicated by being mixed up.” (Hifumi)

“So?” (Origa)

While pouring tea into the cup again and placing it in front of Hifumi, Origa looked at him in expectation.

“We will go to Horant. Since I am also bothered over the magic tool case. It looks like they have been getting reading secretly behind the scenes, so there will likely be some reaction.” (Hifumi)

“Hifumi-sama…” (Origa)

Within Origa it had taken the form of Hifumi especially heading towards Horant for the sake of Origa’s revenge. Furthermore she is hoping for them both to be able to travel together again.

“With Alyssa… as she has waited for a long time now. While we are at it, we should also take some troops along on the expedition, huh? I am planning to test various tools we built as well.” (Hifumi)

Ignoring Origa, who was disappointed that it wouldn’t be just the two of them, Hifumi immediately left for the sake of having Pruflas prepare the necessary things.

“At any rate…” (Origa)

Origa, remaining in the room by herself, looked at the documents on top of the desk.

“Beirevra… get ready. I will kill you without fail.” (Origa)

Her words of determination resounded within the silent room.

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Thus, leading 30 territorial soldiers, Hifumi’s group once again departed heading in the direction of the capital.

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At the time when Ribezal arrived at Münster, Münster was still standing

strong, but there weren't any people to be found roaming within the city. It matched a situation you ought to call a state of high alert.

"What's this? What is the Second Knight Unit doing?" (Ribezal)

He has never predicted that it would practically become a battle with Horant. He believed it would end with both sides glaring at each other. It was completely unforeseeable for Ribezal that a battle would take place to the degree that it would influence the residents of the city.

"Oh my, after the Second, now the First? This place is completely similar the royal castle now." (Biron)

Biron, who welcomed Ribezal in his mansion, said while looking bored.

“What’s up with the situation in this city?” (Ribezal)

Sitting down on the sofa with a flump, Ribezal appeases his thirst with the black tea that was served.

“It seems that the Second Knight Unit can’t stop Horant’s soldiers. Somehow or other they are strengthened by a strange magic tool or something like that.” (Biron)

“Magic tool, you say?!” (Ribezal)

Ribezal was grinding his teeth due to his own plan going astray as the battle progress at the national border to Horant was in a predicament beyond his

imagination. He should return to the royal castle to rally troops under the prince's banner, but the crucial war potential has been reduced.

"And? Where is the Second Knight Unit?" (Ribezal)

"They are quartering in a village close to the border. It appears that they aren't pleased with me requesting reinforcements from the Tohno earldom." (Biron)

Showing his white teeth, Biron laughs. "Excuse my discourtesy", he says finishing his business.

"You say you have asked Hifumi for reinforcements? Why that man?" (Ribezal)

"Because he is strong. He has killed

many enemies, protected the populace and defended his territory. It's to the extent that I want to inquire about his secret as likewise territorial lord." (Biron)

Disregarding Ribezal's scowling look, Biron picked up a single baked sweet.

"Do you want one? The sweetness will calm your mind. Once it is necessary to make composed decisions, I am always making sure to prepare pastry." (Biron)

Since he eats nothing but sweets being clogged up with work, he ends up getting laughed at and branded as child by his wife, Biron laughed and threw another one into his mouth.

“It’s unnecessary. Please excuse me for leaving now!” (Ribezal)

“Ah, please wait. Does your coming here mean that something happened at the royal castle?” (Biron)

Although he stiffened for an instant due to Biron’s question, Ribezal told him that he doesn’t know. He leaves while roughly opening and closing the door. Seeing him off, Biron entrusted his body to the chair with a large breath.

“Good grief! As expected of the First Knight Unit’s captain, he has a quite intimidating air.” (Biron)

By Biron’s estimation it has been decided that the Ribezal’s First

Knight Unit will merge with the Second Knight Unit and head towards fighting against Horant. If they win, they will be able to push up the prince with a triumphal return. I guess the intend to press forward with pure strength up to the inheritance of the crown.

In case they lose, the enemy will turn up here.

“Should I also take the worst case into consideration… ?” (Biron)

While deciding on a policy, he looks up to the ceiling and rings a bell on his desk.

His butler came entering right away.

“You have called?” (Butler)

“Summon all of the commanding officers of the territorial army in the conference room. And prepare the materials necessary for battle then.” (Biron)

“... Certainly!” (Butler)

Without asking anything, the elder butler merely bowed his head.

“I entrust it to you. Anyway, I wonder if he has contacted the Tohno earldom safely? If he was fast, they should already be heading this way. Well, hope has to be placed as hope. It doesn’t influence what’s possible to be done.” (Biron)

It will become busy from here on out, Biron stood up and went towards the conference room.

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The indignant Ribezal returned to the place outside the mansion where the First Knight Unit waited.

No one calls out to him seeing their captain's displeased look.

Except just one person.

"Somehow or other, it looks like the magic tools of Horant have caused considerable damage." (Beirevra)

In a state of having his hands tied behind his back, Beirevra laughs disgustingly.

Even as Ribezal glares at him, he doesn't quit to talk.

"There are countermeasures. I can

prepare the same thing if my people are still alive. If you enhance the soldiers with this…" (Beirevra)

Looking at Beirevra, Ribezal broods over it for a short while, but, ignoring Beirevra currently, he decided to prioritize the linking up with the Second Knight Unit.

"It seems the Second Knight Unit is now lining up at a village close to the border. The appear to have a somewhat hard time, but if we go to reinforce them, the enemy will be forced back right away!" (Ribezal)

"Yea!" with the knights raising their voices, they leave the city of Münster in a line.

Beirevra, who had been bound and

is walking as is, is still laughing frivolously.

“Oh well, please tell me once it is necessary.” (Beirevra)

“Without even relying on someone like you, we have all chances to win, if we use our true strength as knight unit.” (Ribezal)

While saying this, somehow I couldn’t bring myself to hand over Beirevra to Earl Biron.

Earl Biron has already a tune as if he has decided to join the princess’ faction. If I handed over a person holding information about an enemy nation, it might end up being snatched away as achievement by that Hifumi.

“At any rate, you bastard won’t have a role to play.” (Ribezal) (T/N: Flag set)

No matter what it takes, I have to raise military gains with only the knight units belonging to the prince faction.

Ribezal was ruled by impatience.

Chapter 52: Uptown Girl

“Humph~” (Hifumi)

While stirring the meat of the wild boar monster type that had been plentifully thrown into the stew, Hifumi returned an indifferent answer.

Once she was able to meet Hifumi, having been guided by the territorial soldiers, Phyrinion calmly observed Hifumi as Biron’s messenger begged for assistance prostrating himself and explaining the situation of Münster with vigor.

Hifumi’s answer is the previously

mentioned single word.

“Hifumi-sama, what should I do with these vegetables?” (Origa)

“Ah, keep throwing them in without minding it. I think it’s fine to not think that seriously about it since it is just stew.” (Hifumi)

“It looks delicious~” (Alyssa)

Alyssa is gazing at the stew while drooling due to the rich fragrance of the lard and the dashi from the broken down monster bones, which are boiling within the stew with loose, irregular movements, drifting around, completely unrelated to the tense atmosphere the messenger is clad in.

In the vicinity of the supply unit in

the center, several groups were surrounding stews mimicking Hifumi.

Everyone is looking at their stews with a slack face.

“Erm…” (Messenger)

“Ah, for the time being you guys eat as well. The talks are after that.” (Hifumi)

Phyrinion stared intently at that rustical stew dish as she sat down next to the messenger and started to eat the distributed bowl with an ample amount of the stew in it.

“This is tasty, Ojou-sama.” (Krinola)

Krinola, sitting down next to her before she noticed, smiled

pleasantly at Phyrinion.

For Phyrinion, who only ate the food she brought herself, even at the time of field training, she thinks of the taste to be bad if it's the meat of a monster, but she isn't able to deny the apparently delicious smell.

Looking at Hifumi with a fleeting glance, he is eating it, obviously enjoying the taste, alongside Origa's group. 'It will be rude to refuse at this point. I'm afraid to anger them.'

Resolving herself to taste it, her hunger is enhanced by the strong flavor.

"Ah, delicious..." (Phyrinion)

"That's only natural since it was

made by Hifumi-sama himself." (Origa)

"Using the ingredients like this, it will even become such a delicious dish." (Hifumi)

After eating up around 3 bowls in the blink of an eye, Hifumi looked up from the grassy place being completely satisfied.

"So, you want me to help with my troops since the cities in the direction of Horant are in danger." (Hifumi)

The messenger nodded in a hurry towards Hifumi properly comprehending the story.

"Rather than the troops, I'm told to relay to you that Earl Biron wants to

request Earl Tohno himself. Here, it's written in this letter." (Messenger)

"Pass it to me." (Origa)

When Origa hands it over to Hifumi after receiving it, Hifumi, who violently opened it and scanned its contents briefly, stood up as if jumping up.

"You said the feudal lord of the region close to Horant is Earl Biron." (Hifumi)

"Y-Yes!" (Messenger)

"There are still some interesting fellows in this country." (Hifumi)

Following the writing about the request for reinforcements, which

had a stereotyped writing style, there was only a single line thinly written as private message for Hifumi in the letter of Biron.

“Since there are plenty of enemies, I’d like for Earl Tohno to get rid of them without exception.”

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Almost all members of the Second Knight Unit, starting with the captain, Stiffels, were on standby in an insignificant farm village close to the border.

The wounded have been sent back to Münster and are receiving medical treatment there. Several members were sent as escorts in order to act as personnel to watch

over Earl Biron's moves.

Several houses have been rent and are used as lodging place for the knight order. The soldiers are camping outside the village.

With the attacks from Horant having calmed down, the current situation is that a few have remained at the border to stand watch there.

Just when the war council of the Second Knight Unit had gathered, the First Knight Unit turned up at the village.

The members of the Second Knight Unit rushed to see the circumstances due to the sound of horse's feet. They returned to the

place of the war council accompanied by Ribezal.

“Stiffels. Long time no see.” (Ribezal)

“I thought it was an enemy raid. Don’t surprise me.” (Stiffels)

It isn’t to the degree that the First and Second Knight Unit are on bad terms. Given that their workplaces are completely different, it has resulted in them meeting up directly seldomly. It is to the extent of the captains and vice-captains meeting each other in the castle occasionally.

“So, what business does the First Knight Unit, that should be secluding itself within the royal

castle, have at the edge of this country?" (Stiffels)

Because he couldn't conceal his irritation due to the disgraceful war situation, Stiffels glared at Ribezal.

"I cam to propose a common front. It isn't the time of moving separately." (Ribezal)

"Common front? Not as reinforcements but in a joint struggle, what's there matter with that?" (Stiffels)

As Ribezal explained about the inheritance announcement of Imeraria and the acts of brutality within the royal castle by Hifumi, everyone of the Second Knight Unit was astonished.

“No way, for such things to have happened... Did you inform the prince about these matters?” (Stiffels)

“I haven’t reported it. Returning to the royal castle at this point can even result in harming the prince, if it is executed poorly.” (Ribezal)

“Indeed...” (Stiffels)

As Stiffels shook his head in disbelief, he could see that Ribezal wasn’t joking or exaggerating in the least.

“I think even you know about it. That man had now become a noble due to some mistake, but originally he is some unknown summoned person that we don’t even know

where he is from. He is a rebel who killed the king! You don't think that he will refrain from obviously turning antagonistic against the prince, do you?!" (Ribezal)

As Ribezal explains that the prince needs the First and Second Knight Order to join hands in order to stop the princess faction, Stiffels reaction isn't unfavorable.

"Ribezal, I have a single question." (Stiffels)

"What is it?" (Ribezal)

"How many knights and soldiers did you bring along?" (Stiffels)

"... 30 knights and no soldiers." (Ribezal)

Stiffels laughed scornfully at Ribezal's reply.

"It is ridiculous to call it a common front if you come here with a number of people that can't even be called a war potential. It is our side who moved first for the sake of raising military gains for the prince." (Stiffels)

'And yet you complained about the prince following after us' was what the eyes of Second Knight Order's members, listening in the back, said.

"Tsk..." (Ribezal)

"You got it, right? This here is the battlefield of the Second Knight Unit. Go back to the castle,

defenders of the castle." (Stiffels)

Due to Stiffels' blunt refusal, Ribezal decided to stop at the village for the night and then to return tomorrow to Münster temporarily.

Lodging his subordinates in several houses, Ribezal himself enters the house of the village headman about to spend one night on a bed in a detached room. Beirevra, who has been thrown next to the knight standing guard over him, calls out to Ribezal.

"Ribezal-sama. The Second Knight Order, overestimating their own abilities, didn't even possess any interest in Your Excellency's persuasion." (Beirevra)

“Shut up, you are annoying.” (Ribezal)

“The Second Knight Order and the expeditionary force don’t stand a chance as Horant has developed a new magic tool. Sooner or later they will break through the border. Therefore, I can prepare a similar magic tool before that. If you were to repel Horant instead of the Second Knight Order then…” (Beirevra)

It became impossible for Ribezal to ignore those words of Beirevra, who continued to spin his tale without care.

“A new magic tool, you say? Is it this effective?” (Ribezal)

Beirevra floated a repulsive smile as Ribezal's interest was finally piqued.

"The soldiers of Horant are almost completely recruited from the common populace. They are overwhelming knights and soldiers with this." (Beirevra)

"Do you understand the significance of that?" says Beirevra as he is urged on by Ribezal to keep talking.

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"I am glad you came. Welcome." (Biron)

"It's been a while, brother-in-law-san." (Sabnak)

Arriving at Münster as he led a reinforcements of 500 soldiers, Sabnak was greeted by a smiling Earl Biron.

“I never expected you to be the one to come.” (Biron)

“It’s regretful that isn’t Hifumi-san.” (Sabnak)

“No, not at all. Since I’ve thought that I have to do my best by holding out with just the territorial army, you are really saving us.” (Biron)

Besides, because he was fed up with nothing but strange groups showing up at the city, it was even more of a feeling of being saved. Sabnak had no other choice but to smile bitterly.

“Good grief, I’m unable to understand the enemies from Horant and the knight orders from our own country.” (Biron)

“However, I didn’t think that it would turn into a battle with Horant.” (Sabnak)

“Me neither. Well, I wouldn’t be surprised even if it was the Second Knight Order’s side who made the first move.” (Biron)

Prompted by Biron, Sabnak sits down on the sofa.

Having been presented with a warm black tea, Biron sits down on the opposing side as well.

“Well then, how’s the situation?” (Sabnak)

“Not good. Going by the reports from the border, they seem to be struggling for supremacy for the time being, but... I think they are using something identical to the magic tool you told me about. As they are facing enemy soldiers as opponent who don’t even change their expression when they suffer serious injuries, the mental and spiritual fatigue of our soldiers is accelerated. I guess it’s just a matter of time until the enemy breaches the border.” (Biron)

“If that happens, the enemy will advance up to Münster in a blink of an eye”, Biron is estimating.

“Of course, if the First Knight Order and the Second Knight Order join their forces, it might also be

possible to some degree for them to win. But it will be difficult, I think. If one were to say even more, it is possible for the lot of the First Knight Unit and their likes to move in the direction of eliminating you and me." (Biron)

"Such a... no, you could say that. They regard me and brother-in-law-san as part of the princess faction after all." (Sabnak)

"That's true. If I were in their shoes, I would let the enemy break through the border temporarily, produce a situation of a melee in this town and use the confusion to kill me before repelling the enemy. I don't think they have the intention of extending the country's territory even if Horant breaches

the border." (Biron)

Going by Biron's analysis, Horant's goal is to test the magic tools. "If that's the case, they will quickly withdraw once they were able to assess their defined war results", Biron said.

"Having said that, I don't intend to allow the population of my fief to become sacrifices. Therefore, since I have thought up a plan, I want to request your cooperation, Sabnak." (Biron)

"If it's something I can do. And, what's the plan?" (Sabnak)

"That is, look forward to the enjoyment after I managed to finish the preparations. Well now, don't

you want to talk to my wife now that you came here? Of course you will stay for dinner at our home, right?" (Biron)

"Since you will be able to meet your elder sister after a long time, it is fine to take things slowly", Biron showed a refreshing smile.

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Finishing the meal, Hifumi once again felt like giving a reply towards Phyrinion, who conveyed the official directive from the princess.

"Oh well, it's fine even if it isn't Sabnak as long as you are useful. Ask Caim, who is at Fokalore, about the details. I'm heading towards Münster without delay." (Hifumi)

Rather than such things, the battlefield is waiting for him, is what he is saying. Entrusting them to the small military director even though they are his personal soldiers, Hifumi straddled his horse and vanished on the highway in front.

Naturally Origa similarly chased after him as well.

For the left behind messenger of Biron it became a matter of heading towards Münster alongside Hifumi's territorial troops who had likewise been left behind.

"You will be assigned a group as escort. Since the soldiers, who broke the prototype wagon some time ago, will miss the battlefield

this time as punishment, it is fine to accompany them." (Alyssa)

Being pointed at by Alyssa, the trio, informed about their punishment without hesitation, are dropping their shoulders and hanging their head.

"T-Thank you. Umm, why are they feeling down, I wonder? Shouldn't they be happy if they don't need to go to the battlefield?" (Messenger)

"We are Hifumi-san's troops. Missing out on a battle is a disgrace." (Alyssa)

Although he apparently didn't understand Alyssa quite well either, rather than staying in the city continuing their everyday training,

it was far more popular for the soldiers to join an expeditionary force fighting with various new tools.

Thus, accompanying the gloomy-faced trio, they arrived in the peaceful city of Fokalore the next day.

“Let’s meet Caim-san at them Lord’s mansion first.” (Phyrinion)

“Understood.” (Messenger)

With Krinola in the lead, they give the horses and carriage into custody and walk through the city.

(It’s prospering splendidly...) (Phyrinion)

There are many shops gathered in

the centre of the city. Each of them are advertising their own goods with loud voices.

Various shops, small and large, are lined up. There are also plenty of goods of many different kinds.

“The liveliness is completely like in the capital, Ojou-sama.” (Krinola)

“Yes, it seems so.” (Phyrinion)

Rather than something like the merchandise, Phyrinion was bothered by the smiles of the residents.

One reason is that he is a serious criminal who murdered a king.

One reason is that he is a mass murderer.

One reason is that he is a merciless, cold-blooded person.

It can't be seen at all that such man is governing the city. It looks like the residents are enjoying their life.

Even my impression after meeting and talking with him, if I had to say, rather than a frightening character, he gave me the impression of being an innocent, young noble.

"Yes?" (Phyrinion)

She caught sight of a single large building.

Written on the signboard at the entrance is 『Center of Fokalore's Commerce, Industry, and Crafting Guilds』.

It seems to be some kind of public facility, but many merchant-like people and dwarves are coming and going. Occasionally there are some youngsters, holding packages, entering.

If you speak of a guild, don't you usually imagine the adventurer's guild mainly responsible for eliminating monsters? It was a completely mysterious facility as far as Phyrinion was concerned.

"What the heck has happened to this city... ?" (Phyrinion)

It looks like there are various things where it won't be good if I don't hear about them, Phyrinion advanced towards the Lord's mansion aiming for the person

called Caim.

Chapter 53: This Is The New Shit

The new paragraph separator was added by author-sama. So let's use that one instead of my usual one. ^^

* * *

Phyrinion saw women and men of all ages frantically studying at the Lord's mansion in Fokalore while clinging to their desks.

They brought in a large amount of desks and chairs into one of the particularly large party halls within the Lord's mansion. There you could find the city representatives, who changed their allegiance from

Vichy to Orsongrande, as well as their civil official candidates. Furthermore there were the staff members expected to be employed by the Tohno territory, which held formal recruitments. All of them eagerly struggled hard to comprehend the details of the texts they were given, sometimes raising their hands to have the staff in charge explain it to them.

“Uwa...” (Phyrinion)

The civil officials serving the royal castle and the knight orders were simply employed by referral without having to do something like examinations. Therefore it was the first time Phyrinion witnessed such a sight and she couldn’t help but feel out-of-place here.

Next to her is Brokra, who has accompanied her as guiding civil official. Due to Caim being busy continuing the work at hand, he had been assigned as substitute in charge of looking after her.

“At the beginning, when we were purchased by Hifumi, we were told to study the subjects concerning the planned administration of the fief’s land. Since we were employed without minding our blood-lines and social ranks, they will succeed, if they are able to show that they understood the things they studied here by passing the employment examinations.” (Brokra)

“It has nothing to do with social status, so that means…” (Phyrinion)

“Yes, even orphans and former residents of the slums will be employed if they are capable to show their abilities after having been taught writing as applicants. If one doesn’t have confidence in learning, there is also the choice of entering the army. To begin with, aren’t our leading civil officials slaves?” (Brokra)

Brokra laughs smiling with his whole face.

“Now that you mention it…” (Phyrinion)

Phyrinion knew about the things they studied at the royal castle. She is even understanding the matters about Hifumi’s slaves. But, looking at the city’s state of affairs and the

financial affairs, they are far superior than civil officials of other nobles, she is estimating.

“Please understand that our work is to manage the territory quite efficiently and to prepare an environment, where our Lord can take his liberties. I’d like you to comprehend this as well, Phyrinion.” (Brokra)

“Yes, I also intend to more or less grasp the situation concerning the Tohno earldom.” (Phyrinion)

“That would be great. Then, this way, please.” (Brokra)

“Huh?” (Phyrinion)

Brokra invites Phyrinion to a place in the corner of the study hall with

splendid desks prepared and only few others being there.

“Well, first memorize the contents of these documents, please. This is a document summarizing the fundamental management policies and tax systems of the fief’s territory and this is a report of the incomes and expenditures up until now.” (Brokra)

“Eh?” (Phyrinion)

“Please freely use the parchment over here. If it isn’t sufficient, feel free to take some more from the stacked pile over there. It’s also possible to refill the ink there. Since it is Hifumi-sama’s policy to learn by writing, go ahead with memorizing by copying them,

please.” (Brokra)

“What?” (Phyrinion)

Sitting while gazing at it in shock, Brokra smiles gently as Phyrinion doesn’t know what would be good to say with the documents being stacked up rapidly in front of her eyes.

“Please do your best because I have been instructed by Hifumi-sama to have you return if you aren’t as capable as the other civil officials. Please call out to one of the staff members being alternately in charge of the venue at the moment you want to resign midway, okay?” (Brokra)

Brokra quickly left the

dumbfounded Phyrinion as he has to attend to other work.

“... Krinola.” (Phyrinion)

“Yes, ojou-sama.” (Krinola)

Just as her, Krinola seemed to also be unable to follow the situation and was showing a face filled with surprise when Phyrinion called out to her.

“Please make some tea for me.” (Phyrinion)

“Understood. Because I have to go get hot water, um...” (Krinola)

“There is no other choice but to do it. If I run from here, I will become quite the laughingstock.” (Phyrinion)

Krinola bowed towards Phyrinion, who faced the prepared documents.

☺☻☺

The Second Knight Order's captain, Stiffels, remained alone in the troop's assembly hall and considered the current situation.

After the First Knight Order's captain, Ribezal, came intruding earlier and caused a suspension of the war council, the present state turned into a harmless and inoffensive situation of observing the movements of Horant closely.

"But, if Horant doesn't make a move as it is..." (Stiffels)

According to the information brought by the First Knight Order

the war in the Vichy area has more or less mostly calmed down. They are expecting that it will be possible to make quite the advantageous post-war agreements due to the complete victory of Orsongrande or rather by Hifumi's activities and the Third Knight Order's assistance.

If it's like this, Horant's army, who draws their justification from the cooperation with Vichy, will withdraw. Naturally the Second Knight Order will have to withdraw as well since they will lose their reason to be here.

As result, there won't be any military gains either.

"If it stays like this, only that man and the princess will be able to

obtain results. It will probably become difficult to gather support for the prince. It isn't even funny that the nobles, waiting and seeing how the wind blows, have already started to change their loyalties to the princess' faction..." (Stiffels)

No matter what it takes, I want to cause a concluded situation of "The Vichy area was settled by Hifumi's great efforts" and "The Horant area was settled by the Second Knight Order's great effort." But, if Horant retreats slowly, Hifumi will show up here.

"All of them are just nuisances." (Stiffels)

He agitates the sake while complaining.

At the time the alcohol scorched his throat, he suddenly hit on a good idea.

“Ah that’s how it is... There is no need to have only the Second Knight Order shoulder everything. Besides, the evaluation of recapturing is always higher than defending if it’s about accomplishments...” (Stiffels)

If he were in a calm state of mind, he might have considered other plans as well. If he had consulted with someone else, he might have come up with an even more simple strategy.

However his cornered mind steered the rudder onto an extreme course.

“Anyone there? Go and call the vice-captains!” (Stiffels)

Within Stiffels’ head scenes of himself being thanked by the populace and Earl Biron dying on the battlefield took shape.

☺☻☺

“Yo! yo! I am the Viscount Kamoss household’s...” (Kamoss)

“Shut up!” (Hifumi)

Hifumi interrupted the introductory words of the young noble, clad in armor, by waving his hand.

“S-Shut up?!” (Kamoss)

“Make it clear whether you have some business with me or whether

you are hindering me." (Hifumi)

Currently Hifumi has gone ahead leaving the troops behind. With only Origa following him, he has ordered the troops to pursue after him leaving all command to Alyssa.

If he doesn't hurry to Horant, the war will end.

The hurrying Hifumi isn't even able to conceal his irritation towards the man, leading around 30 soldiers on the highway, who are now on alert.

"I-I am a person related to the Second Knight Order's captain. The Horant area is the Second Knight Order's stage! Although you are the princess' favorite, don't try to do something despicable as snatching

the achievements of others. As far as I can see there is only the two of you heading there. Certainly you don't believe that you will be able to push your way through by sheer force... Hey, w-wait... !" (Kamoss)

Hifumi, tired of the long speech, challenges Viscount Kamoss to battle by galloping on his horse.

Although the route was obstructed by the two confused guards on both sides of the viscount, Hifumi drew his katana and killed them in one go.

"Hi, Hii, why..." (Kamoss)

While glaring at the frightened viscount who was shedding tears, Hifumi cold-heartedly said over his

shoulders,

“Because they were a hindrance.” (Hifumi)

“Gyaa!” (Kamoss)

Swinging down the katana faster than he finished to speak, he diagonally split open Viscount Kamoss’ face. While spilling blood and flesh, the corpse fell down from the horse. Both his hands are bent into a ridiculous direction without him even twitching anymore.

“S-Such a...” (Soldier)

“Guwaa!” (Soldier)

The shocked soldiers, seeing how Hifumi killed the viscount without even a shred of hesitation, are

furthermore assaulted by brutal wind blades.

With Origa having her right arm pointing towards them, further two, three people die being cut through in the same manner.

“If you want to survive, run. Escape by running. Those I manage to catch up with, will die. Simple, ain’t it?” (Hifumi)

“Now, let’s start”, as Hifumi said this, the soldiers discarded their weapons and started to run away.

“Origa, hurry up!” (Hifumi)

“Yes, I understood.” (Origa)

While putting several of the escapees to the sword by riding

alongside the highway, Hifumi heads towards the battlefield.

(If I don't hurry, my share of killing will decrease!) (Hifumi)

In a sense, even Hifumi became impatient.

☺☻☺

"This way." (Beirevra)

Secretly leaving the village, Ribezal was brought close to the border by Beirevra. A place with a steep cliff became visible.

"Isn't there just a cliff here? At such location..." (Ribezal)

"Well, please watch." (Beirevra)

As Beirevra wheezed with a short whistle, one part of the cliff moved and a single magician came out from within. He wore a fine dark blue robe. His face couldn't be seen as it was concealed by the hood.

"As I pondered who it might be, Beirevra, huh?" (Magician)

Ribezal unintentionally relaxes his mind due to the unexpectedly young voice of the magician. Most likely his social rank isn't that high, I guess.

"Aye, going by the report previously dispatched, Vichy has absolutely no chance at winning by now. As soon as they were defeated, they escaped..." (Beirevra)

Beirevra bows his head repeatedly.

“So, that man is…” (Magician)

“He seems to be the First Knight Order’s captain, Ribezal.” (Beirevra)

“Are you someone from Horant? The talks concerning the magic tools… oof?!” (Ribezal)

Ribezal stepped up brushing Beirevra aside. He began to talk to the magician, but was unable to continue his word till the end.

With Beirevra grasping a magic tool in his hands, his consciousness faded away.

“Beirevra, why didn’t you make him faint from the beginning?” (Magician)

“Please forgive me. I simply wouldn’t have been able to carry an adult clad in armor up to here. Also, if I carried this man within the village, I would be arrested without a doubt.” (Beirevra)

Smiling bitterly, Beirevra bound Ribezal’s hands and surveyed the vicinity.

“By the way, are the others done?” (Magician)

“Currently all of them have left for another matter. Leaving that aside, as long as you accept me in Horant, I will also obey your next order.” (Beirevra)

The magician passed the decree by throwing it on the ground. It was

containing a plan of invading Münster by using Ribezal as puppet caused by the effect of the magic tool.

“Of course, now that you picked it up, you are to show your utmost effort in serving Horant.” (Magician)

“... Well, fine. If I betray you, you will simply kill me. Apart from that, I want to finish installing the magic tool before this guy wakes up. Let’s strip off the armor.” (Beirevra)

“Aye.” (Magician)

Rolling the fainted Ribezal over so that he faced upwards, Beirevra skilfully removed the armour while the magician took out a magic tool

from within his pocket.

It resembled the magic tool that was used by the rampaging person, who Hifumi killed, quite a lot.

“Is this the aforementioned improved version… ?” (Beirevra)

“Ah, if you use this, it will strengthen the body. He will become a puppet devoid of any human emotions. We already brought the drawback of going on a rampage under control. If you smear this magic tool in blood beforehand, he will listen to what the owner of that blood says.” (Magician)

“That’s amazing.” (Beirevra)

“Spread your blood on it. Only the

two of us, you and me, will be able to use this guy." (Magician)

Receiving a knife and the magic tool, Beirevra was bewildered.

"Is that really alright?" (Beirevra)

"Accomplish the plan by returning to Münster with this guy. I will be the guardian." (Magician)

"Understood." (Beirevra)

In the end Ribzal didn't wake up until the magic tool was attached.

☺☻☺

"Put your name under the document, right away." (Hifumi)

"What are you talking about after

suddenly turning up here?”
(Imeraria)

Hifumi, who dropped by at the royal castle for a short visit en route to Münster, visited Imeraria’s office without any kind of tact.

And, entering the room, the only words he uttered were an order.

“We received attacks by soldiers dispatched from nobles of the prince faction 4 times from Fokalore to here. Furthermore it was only weak scum.” (Hifumi)

“Such a degree, it doesn’t sound like significant hindrance to deal with for someone like Hifumi.”
(Imeraria)

“It’s troublesome since they only

come out in small numbers. I can't even feel good killing all of them." (Hifumi)

"That's how it usually is. So, what kind of document are you asking me to draw up?" (Imeraria)

Imeraria, resigning herself, advanced the subject of the complaining Hifumi, with whom she couldn't sympathize at all.

"Propagate that you have decided to hold your coronation once Horan't side has calmed down. Make a large quantity of letters aimed at the nobles. Tell them to come to the castle and demonstrate their feelings of allegiance." (Hifumi)

"Why are you in such a hurry?

Furthermore, if I do such thing, won't there be an unnecessary increase in people hindering Hifumi-sama?" (Imeraria)

"Have the nobles, who are already attached to you, sign it. It's also fine if you use my name. Also write that their territories will be confiscated, if they don't approve. In case they still refuse, it will be easy to crush them as we would be able to distinguish by where they are from. And, it will also be good, if you put in that your younger brother steps back from the center stage of politics due to sickness." (Hifumi)

"... Understood, if that kid understands and steps back because of that, that kid's life will be..." (Imeraria)

Imeraria turns her eyes towards Hifumi, who tries to leave having said all that he had to say, as if cling onto him.

“As he is your brother, let’s pray that he isn’t that much of a fool.” (Hifumi)

The maid entered carrying the black tea crossing paths with the leaving Hifumi.

“I’m very sorry. The black tea wasn’t in time.” (Maid)

Turning towards the bowing maid, Imeraria, with a worn-out smile, told the maid that she wanted only her own share and asked her that she wanted her to come back.

“I will write letters from now on.

Since I want to request some of the knights to carry them, would you please summon them?" (Imeraria)

"Certainly!" (Maid)

Devoting all her might to the words, Imeraria is planning to write a letter to her younger brother. There should be no way for him to not comprehend his own position since that kid also received education as royalty, she believes.

Chapter 54: Macy's Day Parade

Early morning.

The Second Knight Order as well as the campaign soldiers gathered at the square in the center of the village.

Surveying their ranks, Stiffels opens his mouth to talk in a serious tone.

"Today we will execute an important military operation. It is a strategy to demonstrate that the Second Knight Order is our country's best knight order. It is absolutely unforgivable to fail it." (Stiffels)

Will it become a full-scale war again? With tensed expressions the knights and soldiers straightened their backs.

However, the vice-captains, knowing about the strategy that will be explained from here on, stiffened in tension for a different meaning.

“The operation will be simple. We will provoke the enemy at the national border and lure them into our country. We will then attack the enemy, who will be cut off from Horant’s territory after they entered our country, from the rear. In a situation, where they won’t be able to replenish their troops, we will annihilate the enemy!” (Stiffels)

As the soldiers are just standing

there as if they aren't able to comprehend the mentioned things, the knights are exchanging looks with each other having heard about this strategy for the first time.

"Captain, is it allowed to ask a question?" (Knight)

"What is it?" (Stiffels)

"You tell us to lure them into our territory, but are we luring the enemy up to this village?" (Knight)

Even the soldiers can be seen to be agitated by those words, but Stiffels voice was more intense.

"No, we will pass this village and withdraw till Münster." (Stiffels)

The soldiers began to stir and words

of bafflement started to appear from the knights.

“Then, aren’t the people of this village and the citizens of Münster in danger?” (Knight)

“The villagers will evacuate. Once the enemy draws near the city of Münster, they will probably be stopped by the defense of the territorial soldiers. If we attack from the enemy’s rear, it will be possible to launch a pincer attack” (Stiffels)

Listening to the explanation up until here, the knights and soldiers regained their calm and in reverse began to praise Stiffels’ strategy.

“I can’t help but to declare this as

magnificent ingenuity!" (Soldier)

But, different from the soldiers, praising the smiling Stiffels, a part of the knights can't hide a bitter smile.

They are aware of it.

There is a continuation for this operation. After crushing Horant's army from the rear, using the momentum, they will assault Earl Biron, either in the Lord's mansion or at the front, if he appears there. It is a plan to kill him.

"First, have the villagers take refuge. All they have to do is to temporarily escape to the different villages in the vicinity." (Stiffels)

"Roger." (Knight)

As the knights received their order, they took a part of the soldiers and left in order to explain the situation to the village headman.

“Well then, take care of preparing the other things necessary for battle. We will depart in one hour!” (Stiffels)

All present soldiers answered in a chorus towards Stiffels’ command.

☺☻☺

Around the time the Second Knight Order was preparing their military operation, the First Knight Order headed towards Münster by horse.

Getting ready in the early morning, they left the village. Beirevra, expected to be a prisoner,

accompanied Ribezal, who almost didn't talk at all, freely.

Although the order's members were suspicious of him, their major concern was as to what road they should take from here on out. There weren't few amongst the order who also considered to leave and return to the capital.

"Captain Ribezal, how will we move from now on?" (Knight)

As a single knight drew his horse close and uneasily asks him, Ribezal answers in a monotonous voice without even turning towards him.

"We will return to Münster and make camp in the city's vicinity. Sooner or later the Second Knight

Order is going to return. At that time I will once again sound them out about joining hands with us." (Ribezal)

After smoothly speaking those lines, he once again became silent as before.

Obeying him in silence since there's no other way, the order's knights precede on their horses while bearing anxiety within their hearts.

Beirevra, walking next to Ribezal's horse, chuckles at a spot invisible to everyone.

(It seems the guys from the Second Knight Order are suspecting something, but Horant's troops include nothing but disposable,

brainwashed soldiers anyway. There isn't any problem if they vanish in a competition with the Second Knight Order either. If we later kill Earl Biron by using Ribezal, we will send in another army to snatch Münster.) (Beirevra)

If this plan was to turn out well, Beirevra had been promised that the observation by Horant would be lifted and that he would be appointed as feudal lord of the new territory of Horant.

(You lead wars with intellect. Using their head is something only wasted on knights and soldiers. It's better for them to experience it the hard way.) (Beirevra)

Beirevra, not doubting the success

of the strategy anymore, thought about receiving the permission to enter Horant in a short while at leisure.

☺◕☺

“Brother-in-law-san, I’m told you have called for me.” (Sabnak)

Sabnak, entering Biron’s office, saw an unknown skinny soldier stand there uprightly.

The soldier shows a worn-out appearance, but he gives Sabnak the impression of being skillful as the soldier’s feet are tightly arranged.

“Ah, you came.” (Biron)

Biron introduced the standing

soldier to Sabnak, who sat down on the sofa, without moving from his desk.

“He is a territorial soldier called Hack. His strength lies in gathering intelligence. I am relying on him quite a lot.” (Biron)

The soldier called Hack straightened his back with a snap due to Biron’s words.

“Gathering intelligence... is there something you are interested in?” (Sabnak)

Because of Sabnak’s question, Biron had Hack do the explanation.

“Well then...” (Hack)

Hack turned his body towards

Sabnak, who corrected his seated posture.

“The Second Knight Order’s captain, Stiffels, moved on to the next stage of his plan of drawing in Horant’s army, spread out in the vicinity of the border, lure them onto our territory and stand up against them in battle. Evacuating the common villagers at the border’s village, they will pull the enemy up until Münster by having them pass through the village. He plans to do a pincer attack in cooperation with our territorial army. He wants to annihilate the enemy army isolated on Orsangrande’s ground. Those are the details. They have already started marching towards the border. I think they should be

coming in contact with Horant's army right about now." (Hack)

As the details were explained smoothly, Sabnak tilted his head to the side in confusion.

"Pincer attack? Brother-in-law-san, are you going to cooperate with the Second Knight Order?" (Sabnak)

"No, not at all. I haven't heard anything about such talks. It's unthinkable for me to follow that plan." (Biron)

Expressing a smile, Biron thrust up the index finger.

"I guess most likely they intend to claim the achievement for themselves dragging us into it on their own accord. The story should

go like “Launching a surprise attack by cowardly methods, the enemy was even allowed to invade the country’s soil. We killed them before Münster.” or something like that?” (Biron)

“Such a thing…” (Sabnak)

“They will be able to fabricate this, I think, if there isn’t anyone to take an opposing opinion.” (Biron)

Biron accurately saw through Stiffels’ aim.

For Stiffels, who has his back to the wall, he will be able to gain power as the head of the prince faction, if he manages to obtain military gains counteracting Hifumi as the First Knight Order is currently in a state

close to destruction.

Amongst that, it will also be possible to whittle down the influence of the princess faction if Biron is killed.

“In other words, he is planning to kill Brother-in-law-san.” (Sabnak)

“If he knew about the matter of you being here as well, he would likewise aim at all of you from the Third Knight Order.” (Biron)

If the princess faction has no evidence, there will only be the Second Knight Order to verify the flow of the battle, is what Stiffels should be thinking, Biron points out.

Sabnak curbed the inner corners of

his eyes.

Fokalore as well as here, there are only things giving him a headache.

“And, what will Brother-in-law-san do?” (Sabnak)

Certainly, I don’t think he will go along with Stiffels’ plan, Sabnak offered his sympathy.

“Naturally, the plans, I mentioned the other day, are for such occasions as well. Well then, there is something our Earl Biron household wants to officially request from the Third Knight Order.” (Biron)

“Let’s hear about it.” (Sabnak)

Biron laughed impishly towards

Sabnak, whose face became serious.

“I want to entrust you with the guarding of all citizens of Münster. Outside of the city.” (Biron)

“... Ha?” (Sabnak)

☺◕☺

Stiffels was irritated by unusually not receiving any reports from the messenger soldiers left behind at Münster.

At this time all of the soldiers affiliated to the Second Knight Order, left behind at Münster because of Biron’s order, had already been restrained, but Stiffels had no means to know about this fact.

“It can’t be helped. Once the enemy floods the gate of the city, the territorial soldiers won’t be able to move anyway.” (Stiffels)

The provocation unit, led by the vice-captains, has already attacked the border. If all goes by plan, they can expect the unit, dragging the enemy behind, to return to the village soon.

At the time the enemy becomes visible, the main force will show a rushed withdrawal led by Stiffels. They will match their timing of heading towards Münster along the highway so the enemy can see it.

In front of the city’s entrance the soldiers will split to the left and right. Making a large detour, they

will attack Horant's soldiers from the left, right and back while they should be battling with Biron's territorial forces at the gate.

However. only the knight order will remain at the gate. They will make sure to participate in the defense by blending in with the territorial soldiers.

They will forcibly drag the territorial soldiers into the battle.

Meanwhile numerous footsteps, causing the earth to tremble, approached.

"... They came, huh?" (Stiffels)

As there were the familiar armored appearances of the knights and soldiers when he looked towards

the border, they were chased by a massive amount of soldiers from Horant as they headed towards this direction.

“But, no matter how often I see this, that lot is giving me the creeps.” (Stiffels)

The soldiers from Horant don’t raise their voices and neither do their faces stiffen.

They are simply running in silence having a face only emitting a feeling of absent-mindedness.

More than about their war potential, he feels a chill in his spine due to the enemy not showing anything resembling an emotion.

This isn’t the place to be

preoccupied with such matters now, Stiffels shook his head.

“The enemy came! Execute the strategy as planned!” (Stiffels)

Following his order, the Second Knight Order and the soldiers, albeit slowly at the beginning, move in the direction of Münster.

(With this Biron is finished. Ribezal is in such a sorry state. The influence within the royal castle will greatly slant towards us. Once Prince Ayperos is enthroned, I think I will aim for an even higher position.) (Stiffels)

Stiffels burns with the ambition, that even becoming the prime minister is in his reach in the

future.

☺◕☺

“What’s this about!” (Ayperos)

The chamberlains as well as the guarding soldiers, just looking at each other, none of them is able to reply to the raging Prince Ayperos.

Ayperos passed his time in depravity in the mansion prepared by Biron, but at the time he left the mansion in order to move to the front for having a look, there wasn’t any people left within the city anymore.

Not just the prince was trembling. The chamberlains were likewise.

Having their meals and such

brought in by the people of the city, the prince and his followers, having indulged in booze and women, didn't even feel like caring about something like the circumstances in the city.

The result is the current situation.

"Someone explain it to me!" (Ayperos)

A single shadow approached and quickly kneeled in front of the raging prince.

"Your Highness, Prince Ayperos, I'm at your service." (Ribezal)

"Oh, Ribezal, huh? You came at a good time. Even Stiffels isn't here. Good grief, this fellow isn't useful at crucial times at all." (Ayperos)

As Ayperos asks “So, what’s this about?”, Ribezal answers him with his eyes cast down.

“Stiffels will probably soon come here. Driven away by Horant’s soldiers, I expect him to flee in this direction.” (Ribezal)

“What are you saying! That man, has he been defeated while previously bragging to such an extent!?” (Ayperos)

Without even turning his eyes on the prince, who is unsightly stamping his feet, Ribezal continues.

“This city was abandoned by Earl Biron. Currently he is leading the citizens escaping towards the

capital on the highway." (Ribezal)

"Even Earl Biron?! And he even left me behind while escaping!?" (Ayperos)

The chamberlains are nothing but flustered due to Ayperos having a fit of anger with a deep red face.

"Therefore it is I who came to receive you as soon as possible." (Ribezal)

"I-I see! I won't have to worry then. Let's leave the city right away and return to the capital!" (Ayperos)

"That won't be happening." (Ribezal)

Before they became aware of it, they are surrounded in a circle by the

members of the First Knight Order.

Every of them, with a befuddled face as if partially having blacked out, stood still and relaxedly held their swords.

“... What’s going on here?” (Ayperos)

“That’s what’s going on. Do it.” (Ribezal)

Following Ribezal’s order, the First Knight Order swung down their swords at the chamberlains and guards. Ayperos’ surroundings transformed into a pool of blood in an instant.

“Wh-Wh-Wha...” (Ayperos)

Ayperos, backing off with quivering

legs in a state of barely remaining standing, is easily seized by Ribezal and has his arms being bind behind his back.

“S-Stop! What rudeness! D-Doing such a thing to me…” (Ayperos)

“It has been an easy win just because you have panicked at this place.” (Beirevra)

The concealed Beirevra gets close in front of Ayperos.

In his hands he is grasping the magic tool that was installed on Ribezal and the other knights.

“Who are you bastard!? What’s this!? S-Stop it…” (Ayperos)

“Don’t worry, you won’t feel any

pain. Far from pain, you won't feel anything at all after having it attached." (Beirevra)

"S-Stop..." (Ayperos)

Rolling up the expensive clothes, the magic tool was forced into the abundantly fat chest. The built-in pipes penetrated the interior of Ayperos' body one by one.

At the beginning the prince was afraid and spasmed, but before long he became limp and ceased moving.

Upon Beirevra's command 「Stand up」 the lying down Ayperos stood up unsteadily.

There can't be seen any light in his pupils anymore.

“Kukuku…” (Beirevra)

By no means I expected it to go so smoothly up to this point, Beirevra couldn’t hold back his laughter.

On top of capturing the prince alive, Beirevra was able to literally make him a puppet.

I wonder how much appreciation I will earn with this accomplishment?

Isn’t it even possible for me to expect the position of a noble?

Accompanied by the living-corpse-like knights, Beirevra escaped from the city and chased after the feudal lord of Münster for the sake of gaining even more accomplishments.

Chapter 55: By Myself

“Whhhaaaat did you say!” (Stiffels)

As they are steadily getting closer to Münster’s gate, before Stiffels’ eyes the large front gate is left open allowing anyone to see quite well into the city.

And in there are no people at all, not outside the gate, not inside and not even on the streets of the city.

The first to realize this was Stiffels who was at the head of the troops.

Following after him, the knights noticed the abnormality of the city

as well.

“C-Captain!” (Knight)

“What will we do now!?” (Knight)

They are pressed with intense force by the soldiers from Horant from the back. As it is a serious looking mass urging closer with their weapons in their hands, Stiffels appeared to be even more frightened.

Stiffels takes the situation into consideration.

It is a bad move to step into the city as it is now. If the city falls into ruin, it will become difficult to disprove it being my blunder. Even if we turned away from here, it wouldn’t be possible to disregard

the damages.

If it's like that...

"All soldiers, as soon as we finally reach the city, we will divide to the left and right and pincer attack the enemy, just as planned! During the pincer operation we will use the gate to confine the enemy!" (Stiffels)

"U-Understood!" (Soldiers)

While he is explaining, the city gate draws nearer.

Commanding the soldiers, the knights following their duty, split up left and right accompanied by the soldiers.

A few of Horant's soldiers are lured

by that and follow them, but the great majority advances directly towards Münster.

“Close it! Hurry!” (Stiffels)

Stiffels shouts.

The knight order, dismounting their horses as if falling off, desperately shuts the gate and affixes the bolt.

After a few moments sounds of knocking against the thick wooden gate reverberate. Furthermore, from the other side, the voices of the pincer attacking soldiers and the sounds of weapons clashing arise.

While listening to the frenzied uproar on the opposite side of the door, Stiffels dismounted.

“(What is Biron thinking to abandon the city!?)” (Stiffels)

Failing his plan, Stiffels looks ahead in the direction of the side facing the royal capital trembling in rage.

Even as he watches the road in front until it gets blurry, he can’t see the city’s residents.

“I will definitely kill you! After pulverizing the lot from Horant, it will be your turn, you son of a bitch!” (Stiffels)

☺☻☺

Earl Biron was at the end of the line of the escaping residents in Münster, close to the exit towards the royal capital.

At the beginning of the escape Sabnak asked Biron to be in the centre of the group because of the danger, but without yielding even a bit, Biron himself works alongside the rear guard of Sabnak's Third Knight Order with only his wife and children having gone ahead.

"It's been a while since I wore an armor. It feels uncomfortable." (Biron)

Though it even has been a while since he last mounted a horse, Biron is carefree.

A single soldier rushes over to the mounted Sabnak and reports something.

"... The messenger came. Brother-

in-law-san, it seems the enemy army arrived at Münster." (Sabnak)

"Ah, the enemy army, eh? It is nice if they gather all together like this." (Biron)

Feeling like he can hear the sounds of the death struggle in the far distance, Biron looks up to the sky while pondering.

"It will become easy if we can successfully meet up with Earl Tohno on the road leading to the capital after this." (Biron)

The city's residents have evacuated from the city beforehand. It has been decided that they will return once the battle finishes. As it is a city close to the national border,

Biron naturally had plans for fleeing prepared, but he didn't really believe that the day he would use those plans would ever come.

Although it was quite the burden on the residents, they had no choice but to make a clear decision of moving rather than loosing their lives.

"Certainly, if Hifumi-san arrives, it will probably decide the victory here." (Sabnak)

If he properly identifies us as allies... Sabnak added within his mind.

"Sabnak, someone is approaching!" (Biron)

It was a single associated knight,

but as he dismounted the horse he drew his sword while raising his voice to a roar.

“Brother-in-law-san, please stand back. We don’t know whether he is an ally or an enemy.” (Sabnak)

Descending from his horse, Sabnak draws his sword.

(Swordsmanship isn’t really my strong point, but whatever.) (Sabnak)

While hiding his sigh, Sabnak set up his stance cautiously and saw the First Knight Order’s Ribezal walking over gripping his spear. And as he lead the First Knight Order’s members, the figure of Prince Ayperos could be seen.

Furthermore there was a single unknown man besides the prince.

“Captain Ribezal... Prince Ayperos!?” (Knight)

Someone from the Third Knight Order raised their voice in surprise.

But Sabnak had a bad feeling about this. There aren’t any chamberlains and exclusive guards with the prince. It’s a somehow strange situation. And he remembers he had seen people with such an aura drifting about somewhere.

Searching his mind for a few seconds, he recalled the incident Hifumi encountered in Fokalore.

“All hands, don’t lower your guard! These guys are controlled by a

magic tool!” (Sabnak)

“Eh?” (Knight)

A single knight, being late in his decision for an instant, was pierced by Ribezal’s spear.

“Gue…” (Knight)

“You asshole!” (Knight B)

At once it turned into a melee.

The number of knights on either side is almost the same. Sabnak’s group thought it would be fine if they endured until the other members of the Third Knight Order and Biron’s territorial soldiers came running, but they were forced into hard fight exceeding their assumptions.

“These fellows keep on fighting even if they lose an arm!” (Knight)

“It is just as it was written in the report! Calm down and deliver fatal wounds!” (Sabnak)

“D-Don’t g-get c-c-closer!” (Knight)

The first Knight Order’s moves have become a little bit dull due to the influence of the magic tool, however that doesn’t particularly change the fact that they are formidable opponents for the Third Knight Order, who isn’t accustomed to combat.

“And now you are my opponent… ?” (Sabnak)

In front of Sabnak, who has his sword at the ready, stands Ribezal

pushing out his spear.

Although Ribezal's eyes are unfocused like the ones of a madman, he has an uncommonly intimidating air.

(I see, this is where I die, I guess...) (Sabnak)

As pessimistic thoughts rise to the surface of his mind suddenly, he returns to reality due to the sound of wind being cut.

"Ooops, that was dangerous!" (Sabnak)

The spear lunges at him successively and although he could see that it was inferior to Ribezal's ability he had seen before, it was barely at a speed Sabnak could

evade.

Ribezal's physical strength isn't common either. Even stopping the thrusts with the sword's core, he is pushed to the degree of tottering.

In contrast to Sabnak, who began to breathe heavily in the blink of an eye, Ribezal is calmly setting up his stance.

"He repelled these thrusts easily? Hifumi-san is a monster after all... uwa!" (Sabnak)

Suddenly being pushed from the back, Sabnak walks 2, 3 steps towards Ribezal.

Having Ribezal approach in front, Sabnak jumped to the side in a hurry rolling over on the ground

and avoided the spear's attack that way.

"Phew phew..." (Sabnak)

Scurrying away from Ribezal's range, Sabnak stood up leaking a disgruntled voice.

"Who is a monster? And also, don't try to recklessly compete with the range of a spear wielding opponent. Go ahead, forward with you." (Hifumi)

Looking at the owner of that voice, Sabnak saw a youth with his sharp eyes with their dark pupils and his black hair and recognised him. As usual he wore weird clothes and the katana was affixed to his waist.

While holding the counterweight of

the kusarigama in his hand and spinning it around in circles, Hifumi appears at the front without hesitation.

“H-Hifumi-san? Now matter how you look at it, you are here too fast...” (Sabnak)

“This guy is my prey. You have missed your chance, slowpoke... ah?” (Hifumi)

Hifumi frowned due to Ribezal’s state and after looking around he sighed.

“He isn’t even conscious, huh? He became boring.” (Hifumi)

Shaking his head, Hifumi doesn’t care about Ribezal’s spear approaching him.

“W-Watch out!” (Sabnak)

Without even minding Sabnak’s shout, Hifumi avoids the thrust by having half his body turn sideways. He also slashes at the blade of the spear the moment its forward movement stopped and using the chains it doesn’t touch his body.

Hifumi, taking some distance by pushing the continuously thrusting Ribezal away with a front kick into his stomach, swung the counterweight once again and nailed it into the face of his opponent.

Although he has his nose in the center of the face smashed, Ribezal doesn’t cease to lunge at Hifumi with his spear.

One of Ribezal's eyes leaps out of its socket and a large amount of blood flows from his eyes, nose and mouth.

Even so, Ribezal doesn't stop.

"What a lifeless doll. Without having a reason to fight, his attacks etc. are no different from some kind of broken machine." (Hifumi)

During the time he utters those words, Hifumi, avoiding the spearhead safely, roughly cuts at Ribezal's arms injuring them in the process with the sickle (kama) held in his left hand.

"Hifumi-san, on top of not feeling any pain, those guys don't feel anything like fear. Even if you

plaster them with wounds... Huh?" (Sabnak)

As Ribezal's movements gradually became sluggish, Sabnak tilted his head to the side in confusion.

"If it's a living thing, it will have its body restricted after loosing a fixed amount of blood. It has nothing to do with pain or fear." (Hifumi)

"I think you should know at least this much", Hifumi said while Ribezal lost the strength to raise his arms and finally dropped to his knees.

Hifumi, storing away the kusarigama and quickly drawing the katana from his waist, assaulted the front of Ribezal's armour.

“Found it~~” (Hifumi)

Hifumi tightly grabbed the magic tool, exposed to the air, with his left hand and forcibly tore it off.

Stretching the pipes embedded in Ribezal’s body, they are plucked out making a sound of *ripping*.

The spasming Ribezal, having all of the pipes torn off, collapsed lying spread-eagle while facing up.

“U...” (Ribezal)

“His consciousness has returned, eh?” (Hifumi)

Ribezal, having regained his senses, is bewildered at his own unmovable body.

“You b-bastard are... ! M-My body, what did you... ? What the heck happened... ?” (Ribezal)

“Don’t know. As far as I know, the only thing now waiting for you is death.” (Hifumi)

“What did you.. ?” (Ribezal)

Hifumi standing up and piercing the bare chest with the katana, lifted up the corners of his mouth as he sensed the feeling of the katana penetrating the heart being transmitted to his right hand.

“Umu. If you kill it has to be a human and not a doll.” (Hifumi)

While looking with great interest at the katana, which hasn’t much blood on it due to the blood having

dwindled before, he wipes it with a paper and stores it in the scabbard.

“H-Hifumi-san, if Captain Ribezal’s consciousness has returned before, then…” (Sabnak)

Hifumi answered “That’s right” to the timidly approaching Sabnak.

“I took a chance and tested it out. Unexpectedly his consciousness returned completely. Dying without being aware of it is even for me stupid. It was a good discovery.” (Hifumi)

Sabnak and Biron, watching the whole thing from the start to the end, didn’t say anything to Hifumi, who showed an extremely pleased face, for a while.

“Well then, I am still not finished with my prey yet.” (Hifumi)

Taking out the chigiriki* as his next weapon and grasping it firmly, Hifumi, with a light stride without any fervour, heads towards the battlefield where the melee between the First and Third Knight Order continues.

Watching this, Sabnak yelled in a hurry,

“T-Third Knight Order. All members run awaaaaay!” (Sabnak)

☺☻☺

“I-It’s bad...” (Beirevra)

When the fight begun, Beirevra distanced himself a bit. Watching

the death of Ribezal, he was stricken by fright.

Being under the influence of the magic tool, Ribezal, being a murdering doll without feeling any dread, wasn't just lightly dealt with but also expressly had his consciousness returned before getting killed.

Due to the act which can't be called anything but abnormal, Beirevra trembled in horror in regards of the man called Hifumi, not because of his strength but rather because of his madness.

When he tried to leave the battlefield by crawling as it was a good thing no one saw him, an intense pain traveled through his

calf.

“Gyaaa!” (Beirevra)

While rolling around due to the sudden pain, he looked teary-eyed at his foot and saw some cross-shaped metal stuck there.

“W-What on earth is this?” (Beirevra)

A single girl approached Beirevra who couldn’t feel his foot due to the intense pain.

“Just when I caught up with Hifumi at last... I haven’t shown my gratitude to Hifumi for this good luck.” (Origa)

It is Origa slowly walking over with a shuriken in her right hand.

While her fair-skinned face is expressionless, he green pupils are leaking a powerful killing intent as she fixes her glare at Beirevra.

“Y-You bitch are...” (Beirevra)

“Ara, it seems you remembered.” (Origa)

Although it is just a trifling honor, she throws a second shuriken in the same way and also inflicts a wound on the yet unhurt foot.

“Guu...” (Beirevra)

Without being able to raise his voice already due to the pain, Beirevra clenches his teeth, frantically pulls out the shuriken and binds up the wound with a piece of ripped off cloth.

Nevertheless, the blood doesn't stop to spill.

"Won't you help me... ? With my feet like this, there is nothing but death in the wild awaiting me by now. At least I want to die more calmly..." (Beirevra)

Beirevra, showing a disgraceful lamenting, anticipated help from the spy of Horant within his mind.

He continues his speech to gain further time as the pursuit isn't coming.

"Therefore..." (Beirevra)

"Shut up." (Origa)

Origa finished the casting during the time Beirevra wept and begged.

The wind blades mercilessly sent one arm flying.

“Gyaaaaaaaaaaaaa!” (Beirevra)

Origa’s facial expression doesn’t even change a bit seeing Beirevra turning a somersault scattering his blood after having his arm cleanly cut off at the root of his shoulder while bawling with a *giddy laughter*.

“For you it is an appropriate way to die while grovelling on the ground like this frantically trying to survive. Have a disgraceful, uncouth and gruesome death. And only after that the possibility of me forgiving your deeds might appear.” (Origa)

By now, he isn’t capable to even

talk anymore. Beirevra, restlessly stirring his injured feet and trying to move to escape the predicament, repeats his talking about help as if in delirium. Origa doesn't listen to him.

"You probably don't understand the humiliation we suffered. I don't want you to understand it either. If we didn't have the luck to be picked up by Hifumi, by now we would..." (Origa)

Drawing near to the struggling Beirevra, she tramples down on his abdomen and his movement ceases.

Beginning to have a hazy consciousness due to the blood loss, Origa is reflected in Beirevra's blurry field of vision. He watched

her taking off the dagger fixed to her wrist and grasping it tightly in her right hand.

“Hifumi-sama, I wish to express my gratitude. I am able to carry out my revenge with this. And, look Kasha, at the way our foe heads towards his death.” (Origa)

Origa, murmuring as if she is holding a conversation with someone bit by bit, swung down the dagger with all her strength towards Beirevra’s chest.

Being stabbed in the heart, it was an instant death for Beirevra.

Having pulled out the dagger, Origa noticed herself sobbing.

She doesn’t understand the reason

for those tears either, but just by finishing her revenge, she could definitely feel the liberation of her own heart within her chest.

* * *

Translation Notes:

* The chigiriki is a Japanese flail weapon. It consists of a solid or hollow wood (sometimes bamboo) or iron staff with an iron weight and chain on the end, sometimes retractable. The chigiriki is a more aggressive variation of the parrying weapon kusarigama. It can be used to strike or entangle the opponent as well as to parry his blows and to capture or incapacitate an opponents weapon. (source: Jisho.org)

Chapter 56: Wanted Dead Or Alive

At the time Origa joined up with Hifumi, the First Knight Order was already close to complete annihilation.

Swinging the chains of the chigiriki, he hits the knights with the counterweight firmly. He focuses his aim on faces and noses and once their movements grow dull, he strikes at their necks.

Broken teeth and blood are scattered all over. On one side there are the fallen members of the First

Knight Order of whom none are breathing anymore.

Everyone of the Third Knight Order, noticing Hifumi's approach due to Sabnak's warning, withdrew from the battlefield in panic.

Even the last member of the First Knight Order, coming thrusting his spear, had the spearhead arrested and his stance broken. He fell down by being tripped up.

"It's the end." (Hifumi)

The knight, having his neck broken by being stepped on, died spurting blood from his mouth.

"Alright, they were disposed of, huh?" (Hifumi)

Putting away the chigiriki, he puts the somehow disheveled dougi in order just as Origa is drawing close.

“Hifumi-sama, it looks like there aren’t any enemies in this area left.” (Origa)

Hifumi, listening to Origa’s report, muttered “Is that so?” after sending a fleeting glance in the direction of the gathering Third Knight Order.

“And… I discovered Beirevra not long ago.” (Origa)

“I see. So, what happened to him?” (Hifumi)

“I killed him with my own hands.” (Origa)

While stroking the dagger she fixed

back on her arm again, Origa shows a face of neither sadness nor delight. Hifumi puts his hand on her shoulder.

“Good work. It is finally over.” (Hifumi)

Hifumi remembered the novel “Assistance in Revenge” he read once before. Although it was slightly different, for some reason, the words he casually said were something along those lines. He had a feeling that Origa at last, with those words of appreciation, was saved.

“H-Hifumi-sama...” (Origa)

Origa, overcome with emotions, leaped into Hifumi’s chest without

even wiping the tears that started to pour out.

“Oh?” (Hifumi)

“I’m very sorry. Let me stay like this, only for a bit...” (Origa)

Hifumi, who showed a face of doubt for a moment due to Origa suddenly bursting into tears, seized her shoulders and pulled her apart. He directly stared into the eyes of her.

“Smile, Origa.” (Hifumi)

“You killed your enemy accomplishing your revenge, right? Aren’t you glad? At such times you should smile.” (Hifumi)

Origa, looking at Hifumi’s face for a

while, smiled cheerfully while shedding tears after having taken a deep breath in one go that resounded through her throat.

“That’s right. It’s fine like this.” (Hifumi)

If seen from the sight, they might look like a couple that overcame some ordeal, but there are corpses of knights scattered in the surroundings.

Sabnak and Biron approach nervously at that point.

“Ermm…” (Sabnak)

“Ah, Sabnak, is it? I wonder if they are still fighting in city down the road? I will go there.” (Hifumi)

“No, umm... Though that person...” (Sabnak)

Sabnak pointed ahead. There was the figure of Prince Ayperos standing rock still with an appearance as if being an empty husk.

“Is something wrong with that brat?” (Hifumi)

“Brat, you say... Even if he’s like that, he still this country’s prince.” (Sabnak)

“It should be obvious”, Sabnak says, but Hifumi does no more than tilting his head to the side.

Did you intend to become a hindrance? Origa is looking at Sabnak with eyes full of nothing but

the wish to curse him to death.

“Well, it’s fine. Although it seems he is being manipulated as well, we, of the Third Knight Order, want to take him into custody, but...” (Sabnak)

“I have no use for a brat that shows no inclination to fight with me. It’s fine if you do as you like with him.” (Hifumi)

“Thank you very much.” (Sabnak)

Hearing Hifumi’s answer, Sabnak gathered several people and headed towards Ayperos’ location.

In exchange Earl Biron steps in front of Hifumi.

“Thank you for your assistance. I

am called Earl Biron Kamrat (T/N: >> Kamuratto <<). You are Earl Tohno, right?" (Biron)

"Biron? Ah, that letter-sending Earl, eh?" (Hifumi)

"That is so, on this occasion..." (Biron)

In the instant he tried to convey his gratitude, Hifumi draws his katana with his right hand using a backhand grip and presses the cold blade against the scruff of Biron's neck.

"It's alright to call me here because there are enemies. But, I don't like your intention of using it for your own benefit." (Hifumi)

"I-Intention to use you is

wr-“(Biron)

“To call me for the sake of protecting your city isn’t using me? I came to kill the enemies, but I think it is far too good and convenient to be convinced that you aren’t included as one of them.” (Hifumi)

Until just now he had the leeway to show a smile, but now sweat was trickling down on his face. Biron saw his own reflection on the blade.

“I planned to personally protect the people and myself… since there was also the Third Knight Order… with the First Knight Order being outside my predictions…” (Biron)

Breathing roughly, Biron talked in

broken parts. Hifumi separated the katana.

“A-As nobles of the same country, I requested the assistance of the hero Earl Tohno...” (Biron)

“Because there are battles, I will go there. I don’t care about the country or members of the same faction. My only criterion is whether you will become my enemy or not. ... The overdue territorial soldiers of Fokalore will come here. You are free to welcome them or to oppose them, but if you consider mutual beneficial relations, I think you should arrange something corresponding for the given benefits. Don’t you think so?” (Hifumi)

Hifumi laughs broadly. Biron began to realize the true nature of the thing he had called himself. He thought that if Hifumi was a battle maniac, he would be delighted if there were enemies, but he made a huge mistake.

(This man yearns for nothing but killing. Doesn't he have any interest in the result of a battle?) (Biron)

He now understood the reason why Sabnak had the Third Knight Order depart in a hurry at the time when Hifumi arrived. At that rate they might have been massacred in one go as they are a knight order as well.

Looking at Hifumi's back heading in the direction of the prince, Biron

took a short rest as consequence of his blunder.

☺☻☺

“Shall we remove the magic tool for the time being?”

“It will be bad if it has some side effects. It will also be bad if he acts violently. Isn’t it better to take him in the current state and return to the royal capital?”

“I have a feeling that the guys of the prince faction will say something about this, but…”

With Price Ayperos standing in the middle, the knights debated their opinions, but as of yet they haven’t reached a decision.

Noticing that Hifumi came walking over, all of them get out-of-the-way.

“Sabnak, you said that this guy is the prince.” (Hifumi)

“Please don’t accelerate his death…” (Sabnak)

“I recalled that I made a promise to Imeraria. I won’t kill him right now.” (Hifumi)

With those words Hifumi violently tore off the prince’s clothes and grabbed the magic tool embedded in his chest.

“I will let that guy himself choose his own destiny.” (Hifumi)

Same as with Ribezal previously, he tore off the magic tool in a brutal

way without caring about the other party's body at all.

The knights, visible in the surroundings, are just watching the situation without being able to stop this.

No one tries to catch the prince as he collapses to the ground.

"U... Uu?" (Ayperos)

Blinking his eyes, the prince regained his consciousness.

"Wh...at? What the he... My chest hurts... ? Uwah." (Ayperos)

As the prince is looking at his own bloodstained body with a hole in his chest, he becomes confused right away. A magic potion was applied

on him with a splashing sound.

“You woke up. Stand up.” (Hifumi)

Flinging away the emptied bottle, Hifumi orders him.

“This is…” (Ayperos)

Although he was completely preoccupied with the healed wound, the prince quickly got up.

“You bastard are from that time…” (Ayperos)

The prince is glaring with eyes full of hatred, but Hifumi isn’t even a bit perturbed.

“Well then, you have the choice to decide your fate here.” (Hifumi)

“What was that? You bastard, towards me who is the prince...” (Ayperos)

A single slap strikes Ayperos’ cheek.

“Shut up.” (Hifumi)

Tears are gathering in Ayperos’ eyes as the pain makes his surroundings appear blurry.

“This country’s throne is taken by Imeraria.” (Hifumi)

“Wh...” (Ayperos)

“It’s fine for you to do what you like after this. It’s even alright to oppose your elder sister. There is also the way of receiving some position of allegiance. ... Ah, since your mother

isn't in this world anymore, relying on her is pointless even if you want to." (Hifumi)

Ayperos opened his eyes widely due to the last words.

He surveys the vicinity. Because he only recognized the face of Earl Biron, who came close, he looks at that face.

Earl Biron slowly shook his head left and right.

"Such a... n-never..." (Ayperos)

"Ah, I killed her." (Hifumi)

Hifumi, perceiving Ayperos gaze returning to him, informs him of the truth without hesitation.

“U-Uwaaaaaa! You bastard! You bastard aaaaaare!” (Ayperos)

As the prince suffered from being seized by madness, Hifumi kicked him with his right leg causing him to fall to the ground. Hifumi scowled at Ayperos who was unsightly tumbling to the ground.

“They chose the path of hostility by themselves. And they died due to that mistake. You are free to resent me, but have to resolve yourself to bear the responsibility for that action yourself.” (Hifumi)

“Ugu…” (Ayperos)

Although Ayperos is overpowered by the intimidating air of Hifumi, on top of fear, the emotion of rage

is strong within him.

“You bastard are a parasite that has infiltrated this country! Not just ascending to a position, that doesn’t befits your-likes, by buttering up to elder sister, you are even deceiving elder sister. I won’t forgive you for kicking me who should become the king!” (Ayperos)

Does he not cease once he has started to spit out words of rage? He continues the insults towards Hifumi.

“P-Prince, let’s returning to the capital for the time being…” (Sabnak)

The prince doesn’t stop even as Sabnak calls out to him.

“I won’t go anywhere with your rotten Third Knight Order! Drawing someone like that into the country, this is the outcome after he was given a rank and territory! A savage that doesn’t understand what pedigree is! To injure me! Wh...” (Ayperos)

Ayperos’ field of vision warps.

“Wha, wha-wh-w...” (Ayperos)

Before anyone knows what’s going on, Ayperos head divides left and right. Both halves get out of alignment while shedding blood.

At the time he collapsed to the ground with the sound of a short splat. Ayperos died spilling the contents of his head.

“I won’t forgive you for insulting Hifumi-sama anymore than this.” (Origa) (T/N: The yandere strikes!)

It is Origa who did him in.

Stretching her right hand in front of her, she bisected Ayperos’ head cutting it with the a wind blade possessing the highest sharpness she could think of.

“Acha~” (Sabnak) (T/N: An expression basically meaning “Shit what have I/you done?”)

Just Sabnak, as the only one amongst the shocked knights, spoke up.

☺☻☺

“You will stay here. Wait for the

arrival of Alyssa's group" (Hifumi)

"S-Such a... Ouch!" (Origa)

Origa squatted down rubbing her head after she received a fist from Hifumi.

"You stole my prey. Letting that foolish brat go freely like that should have created still more chaos within the country, but..." (Hifumi)

"H-However..." (Origa)

"Is there anyone that loses their temper over that brat from before? Anyway, the remaining lot is my prey." (Hifumi)

Origa, being stricken with depression, saw Hifumi off with

teary eyes as he went towards Münster by himself while being indignant.

“Do you have a moment?” (Biron)

Recovering herself, Origa bowed to Biron who came and started talking to her.

“How may I help you?” (Origa)

“Ah, it’s fine if you aren’t this formal. After all I’m in the position of having been saved by you. So, I hear that Earl Tohno’s troops are headed here, but since I want to welcome them to Münster, I’d like you to tell me the number of people if it suits you.” (Biron)

“If it is something like that”, Origa told him the number of people and

their formation.

“And, I think that the dispute in this city will likely reach its temporary conclusion with this, but I wonder if it will result in having the troops, he brought along, return?” (Biron)

Upon hearing Biron’s question, Origa faced him with a suspecting look.

“No, I don’t understand the reason why Earl Tohno, who has this much fighting strength, especially brought along his troops, you know.” (Biron)

“... Well, it’s fine, I guess.” (Origa)

Origa quickly returning to being expressionless, unnaturally clears her throat.

“This time’s march was something like doing an expedition practice. Originally it’s only natural that they are unnecessary to do something like assisting Hifumi in such sort of battle.” (Origa)

“But,” Origa continues.

“After the departure from Fokalore Hifumi-sama had only once talked about his plans. ... Because it isn’t interesting to fight people who are manipulated by a magic tool, he won’t enter Horant and,” (Origa)

“T-That is, in other words...” (Biron)

“As soon as our Fokalore territorial army has put their preparations in order, we will invade Horant.” (Origa)

Origa further continued as Biron was becoming pale.

“If you become an obstacle, we will advance the troops to crush you in one go with that power as well.”

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